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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Acts on Israeli-Iranian Arms Ties

LD3103183189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1650 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Tunis, March 31 (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has paid high tribute to the vote of confidence given by the league's council to the six-man Arab committee on Lebanon, headed by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

In an address delivered here last night in conclusion of the ordinary session of the council, Klibi pointed to the Arab unanimous support of the committee, so that it can continue the mission at hand.

Reviewing the council's accomplishments during the session, the league's chief said "they are aimed at reviving the course of joint Arab action in the various fields," noting that part of the discussions focused on resolving the Lebanese crisis and the security situation in Beirut.

He said that the conclusion of the council's meetings falls on a special and glorious day, namely Land Day, affirming in this regard that the Palestinian people will go on with their uprising until Israel bows to international laws and deals with the right of the Palestinian people accordingly by withdrawing from the occupied territories and evacuating Jerusalem from all Zionist forces.

At the start of the meeting, the council voted to re- elect Klibi for a third five-year term as secretary general.

The Arab League Ministerial Council called for organizing a seminar on the Palestinian question in the US to gain further support to the Palestinian cause. Welcoming the ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war, the council hailed efforts of UN secretary general in this regard and called for release of war prisoners held by the two sides.

Over arms cooperation between Iran and Israel, the council urged Arab countries which have diplomatic ties with Tehran to discuss the issue with the Iranians in addition to the immigration of Jewish Iranians to occupied Palestine.

The council, expressing support to African struggle, hoped recent agreements would accelerate Namibia's independence and stressed Arab commitment to Afro-Arab cooperation in various areas.

Tribute was paid to Kuwait for accepting the hosting of the 10th session of the Afro-Arab Cooperation Committee.

The council primarily approved dialogue between Arab League states and the socialist group for developing Arab-Comecon [CEMA] relations.

Members of the council voiced solidarity with Libya against US and European anti-Libyan discriminatory measures in raw materials and technical equipment, as well as US economic siege against Tripoli and freeze of Libyan funds in US banks.

The council decided to open new league missions in both Moscow and Beijing to boost Arab information performance, particularly in connection with the Palestinian intifadah [uprising].

Arab League Official on Iraqi Nuclear Development

LD3103215389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1831 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Washington, March 31 (KUNA)—Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League ambassador to the U.S., Friday assailed as a "pipedream" Israel's proposals to hold elections for Palestinians under occupation, charging the plan was intended only to "buy more time" while Israel continued annexing Arab land.

And he called U.S. and Israeli allegations about new Iraqi nuclear developments a "paranoid" attempt to justify Israel's proclaimed right to be the region's only nuclear power.

In an interview with KUNA, the senior Arab official said of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's election comments to the NEW YORK TIMES earlier in the day, :"Shamir's proposals are another attempt at stonewalling an authentic peace process in order to buy more time to consolidate his policies of annexation.

"This is totally unacceptable and it masks (Israel's) determination...to continue to pursue its intransigent position and policies."

And Maksoud added, "Shamir knows, and so do the Israelis, that such contempt for the international consensus about the representativity of the PLO is so well known that he cannot derail the steps that have been taken towards organizing the international (Mideast peace) conference and the rightful role of the PLO in it."

Moreover, "this notion of trying to stop the intifadah as a condition precedent" to the conference is "a pipedream on the part of Shamir," the Arab League ambassador said.

He noted the 15-month Arab revolt was "an irreversible, historical development and it will not stop unless there is total termination of occupation of Palestine by Israel."

And Maksoud, who also is the Arab League representative at the United Nations, observed that since the PLO has "committed itself" to the two-state system, "this constitutes the ultimate historical opportunity for reconciliation" between Israel and the Palestinians."

That reconciliation, though, depended on Israel's recognizing the Palestinians' right to their own state, he affirmed.

KUNA also asked the senior Arab spokesman about press reports early Friday suggesting Iraq had embarked on a new and intensified nuclear arms program. Israeli and American nuclear and military experts were cited in the reports. But Maksoud warned the Bush administration against "falling into Israel's trap of...contrived paranoia...about the stories, the allegations of building of nuclear weapons in Iraq and other places" in the Arab world.

The suggestion that the reports are unsubstantiated received unexpected and possibly unintended support from U.S. Central Intelligence (CIA) Director William Webster. Webster, in congressional testimony Wednesday on Third World nuclear developments, said it would take would-be Mideast nuclear powers "years under the best of conditions" to develop a nuclear weapon.

Maksoud noted that Shamir will meet here next week with President Bush and State Department Secretary James Baker, and he and other analysts believe the nuclear development story will be a major topic of discussion. Basically, the charges against Iraq are "an attempt to justify Israel's claim to monopoly in the region," the Arab League ambassador asserted.

And he added, "it is an attempt (by Israel) also to constitute out of itself a claim to hegemony and to perpetuate a strategic imbalance which would guarantee its annexationist polices with impunity.

Palestinian Affairs

Central Council Approves 'Arafat as President

JN3103204389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Tunis, 31 Mar (INA)—The PLO Central Council has approved the appointment of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as president of the Palestinian state.

Sources close to the Central Council have told the INA correspondent here that the decision was made during the Central Council's meeting here tonight under Yasir 'Arafat.

During its meetings here Friday, the PLO Executive Committee decided to appoint Yasir 'Arafat as president, provided this proposal is presented to the Central Council.

Council Continues Meetings

JN0104172089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The PLO Central Council this morning resumed its sessions in the Tunisian capital under His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council. Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the independent State of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution's Forces; PLO Executive Committee members; and Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; attended.

During its first session, which was held yesterday evening, the PLO Central Council heard the political report submitted by Brother Faruq al-Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The Central Council also heard the occupied homeland report presented by brother Muhammad Milhim, head of the [PLO] Occupied Homeland Department.

The brother leader and president, Abu 'Ammar, presented a detailed brief to the PLO Central Council on the Palestinian mover in all fields, on the occupied homeland in light of the escalation of our valiant people's intifadah [uprising], and on providing the means for its continuation and escalation.

The PLO Central Council is expected to issue a political statement on the conclusion of its session.

An official Palestinian source has denied, part and parcel, the report published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH on the PLO Central Council's meeting.

Radio Denies 'Allegations'

JN0104195589 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1850 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] An official Palestinian source has denied, part and parcel, a news item published by some newspapers about the meetings of the PLO Central Council.

The Palestinian source said that the daily practice of political action by the PLO Executive Committee proceeds principally from the Palestine National Council's historic resolutions. The Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is but one of the fruits of these resolutions and the practical program, represented in the Palestinian peace attack, and came about in order to bolster it.

The attempts to distort the PLO's active political move through some newspapers' repetition of their allegations aims to create confusion amid this great rallying of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people display this rallying through their blessed intifadah [uprising] and their entrenched national unity, which will not allow those who claim phony concern to implement their objectives in the service of the Israeli enemy, which is

facing a suffocating international isolation. This isolation has made it lose the pillars on which it has built its aggression for the past 40 years.

The PLO Executive Committee's decision to name brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] as president of the State of Palestine and to appoint brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] as foreign minister of the State of Palestine reveals the invalidity and falsity of these lies, which some newspapers have published.

Qaddumi Appointment Confirmed

JN0104201489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The PLO Central Council has unanimuously approved the PLO Executive Committee's decisions to name brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] as president of the State of Palestine and to appoint Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] as foreign minister of the State of Palestine.

Abu Sharif on Appointments

NC0204102389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1003 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, 2 Apr (MENA)—The PLO Central Council elected Yasir 'Arafat president of the State of Palestine at dawn today, according to Bassam Abu Sharif, 'Arafat's press adviser.

Abu Sharif stated that the voting process had lasted until dawn and that all the PLO factions, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, agreed to 'Arafat's election as president of the Palestinian state.

It is to be noted that the Palestine National Council, which announced the establishment of an independent Palestinian state during its meetings in Algiers in November, had given the Central Council the authority to vote on the formation of a transitional government.

The PLO Executive Committee has nominated Yasir 'Arafat for the presidency and Faruq Qaddumi for the position of foreign minister. The Central Council did not discuss Qaddumi's nomination during yesterday's session, but it is expected to continue its meetings later today. [passage omitted]

Council 'Differences' Noted

NC0204193689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, 2 Apr (MENA)—An informed Palestinian source has told the MENA correspondent in Tunis that the election of Yasir 'Arafat as president of the State of Palestine was dictated by the political requirements that have arisen as a result of the circumstances through which the Palestinian issue is passing. He noted that 100 states have recognized the State of Palestine so far and that Palestine occupies a number of seats in some international organizations and institutions.

The source disclosed that there were differences of views inside the Palestinian Central Council on the declaration of a truce in southern Lebanon and regarding the recent statements made in Geneva about the recognition of Israel. Some members summed up their positions by saying: "Not everything that the United States requests must be accepted." There also were differences in views on the issue of forming a provisional Palestinian government.

It was agreed, the source said, to continue to adhere to the recommendation made by the Palestine National Council at its meeting in Algiers last November; namely, to regard the Executive Committee as a provisional government. The official title of Yasir 'Arafat will be president of the State of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

Higher Committee Meets Under 'Arafat in Tunis

LD3103191789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The Higher Committee for the Palestinian popular uprising met in Tunis before noon today under the chairmanship of Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The committee examined a number of topics related to the Palestinians' situation inside the occupied territories.

The committee also adopted several resolutions, including one calling on the European and U.S. delegations and medical committees, which have visited the territories, to present reports on the brutal and repressive methods applied by the Israeli troops of occupation against the Palestinian people, including the use of several types of lethal gases, such as the nerve gas, sterility gas, and others causing blindness to premature babies. The committee has also decided to get in touch with world jurists to raise this issue at the international level.

Habash Declares Backing for 'Arafat Election

LD0204135689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1224 GMT 2 Apr 89

[By Yehiya Mattar]

[Text] Kuwait, April 2 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Dr. George Habash stressed here Sunday that the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] should be maintained and declared his backing to electing PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as president of the Palestine State.

Dr. Habash told a press conference, held at the Palestine Embassy, that the intifadah, which is currently in its 16th consecutive month, had achieved great accomplishments on the international level.

He underlined that the Palestine cause has again captured the world limelight thanks to the intifadah which also provided the historic opportunity for creating the Palestinian state.

The uprising has affected the Zionist entity ever since its outbreak in the economic and political fields, Habash underlined and explained that Israel's gross national production had decreased by 3.5 percent in that period in addition to a five percent reduction in its agricultural produce.

The PFLP leader arrived here Friday on a few days visit to attend the Palestinian cultural week organized by the PLO here to mark the Land Day which fell on March 30. The day is annually celebrated to commemorate the Israeli killing of six Palestinian civilians in 1976 while taking part in protest demonstrations against confiscation of Arab lands in the Galilee.

Habash called for ensuring continuation of the intifadah to force the Zionist entity into accepting the Palestine State in an international conference to be attended by all concerned international parties.

He pointed out, however, that the two major Israeli parties the Likud and Labor have signed an agreement rejecting the Palestine State, recognition of the PLO, withdrawal from Palestinian territories and division of Jerusalem.

The PFLP secretary said that the Zionist entity will propose establishment of a disarmed Palestinian state with its capital in one of the Palestinian cities other than Jerusalem and it will not pull out from all occupied lands nor will it allow the return of Palestinians.

That meant it will advocate self-rule for the Palestinians or confederation (with Jordan), he explained.

Habash affirmed importance of international diplomatic arena but warned against awarding endeavor in that arena an inflated size particularly when the intifadah is not the end of armed struggle but rather one of its stages.

The PFLP advocates four basic political principles topped by preserving national unity and respecting and backing the intifadah until its calls for freedom and independence are realized, Habash said.

He added that the second principle calls for sticking to the Palestinian basics of statehood, return, self-determination and Palestine National Council Resolutions passed last November 15 in Algiers.

Overriding those basics threatens Palestinian unity, the secretary warned and pointed out that deepening them enhances national unity.

He called, meanwhile, for democratic reforms within the PLO and for forming a wide Palestinian front within the organization, rather than a grouping of factions, with the right of each faction to retain its own ideology.

The third principle understands Israel as an aggressive entity that threatens the entire Arab world, he said and cited destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981 and interference in Lebanon.

Habash asked for Arab political backing that would determine relations with the U.S. Administration on the basis of the latter's recognition of the Palestinian state.

The fourth and final principle highlights role of the Arab masses, Habash noted, calling for popular Arab moves in support of the revolting Palestinians.

Habash supported the election of Yasir 'Arafat as president of the independent Palestine State in his capacity as chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

He underscored that he will join the Palestinian government when it is formed so long as it is sticking to Palestinian basics.

On (?the U.S.)-PLO dialogue, he said that Washington in the first round sought Palestinian assertion that the Palestinian people will renounce "terrorism" as if the Palestinians were terrorists.

In the second round, the U.S. Administration asked for easing the intifadah and in return it would convince Tel Aviv to lessen violence, Habash said, adding that pressure should be exerted on Washington to solve the Palestine cause and not to abort the uprising.

Shifting to the Syria-PLO relations, he said that reasons for tension in this relationship including Palestinian armed presence in Lebanon were not resolved yet.

Habash, meantime, pointed out that the Lebanese crisis has become more complicated particularly when certain Arab forces were struggling in that arena to impose a certain plan but he called for distinguishing that plan from the Israeli schemes in that Arab country.

Settling the Lebanese crisis will only be feasible after solving the Mideast crisis in an international conference, he said but affirmed that Lebanon should not be left without a solution in the given circumstances.

PFLP Claims Responsibility for Operation

JN3103130189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] A fierce clash took place between an Israeli patrol and an armed group near the Shukin village, north of the security belt in southern Lebanon. The clash resulted in the death of two persons, according to Israeli military sources.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] claimed responsibility for this operation this morning. The PFLP said it carried out this operation to commemorate Land Day and to support the intifadah [uprising]. The PFLP added that the Palestinian group inflicted heavy losses on Israeli forces.

PFLP's Jibril on Continuing Armed Struggle

LD3103163189 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus, 31 Al-Mirrikh, [March], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command—has stressed that the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy will continue until the Palestinian Arab people gets its legitimate rights on its land—Palestine.

In comments made to AL-MAWQIF AL-ARABI periodical, Mr Jibril adds that the continuation of the revolution waged by the Palestinian generation of anger is conducive to [word indistinct] victory for the Palestinian question.

'Abd al-Rahman on Shamir's Upcoming U.S. Visit

LD3103213689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1958 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Washington, March 31 (KUNA)—Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman, a senior PLO representative here, Friday scoffed at Israel's notion of elections for the Palestinians, saying it was foolish to enact such democratic traditions during an ongoing occupation.

In an interview with KUNA, 'Abd al-Rahman said, "as a matter of principle, democratic elections and occupation are mutually exclusive."

And, noting that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir invoked the Camp David accords in press comments Thursday, he added, "It seems Shamir wants to pull old pages from old books. Shamir knows well that Camp David is dead."

'Abd al-Rahman pointed out that of the agreements' signers—the U.S. and Egypt—"acknowledge this reality."

He accused Shamir of wanting to "divert attention from the peace process, which [words indistinct] to undermine," and urged the U.S. not to "let Israel get away with these empty peace maneuvers by discussing certain details that are irrelevant to the peace process."

During Shamir's visit here next week, the U.S. should "concentrate on what is internationally accepted as the road to peace, the international conference based on (U.N. resolutions) 232 and 338 and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination," 'Abd al-Rahman stated.

The senior PLO official also said the U.S.-PLO dialogue so far was "positive," and added, "we hope for its expansion, its institutionalization and that it would lead to common positions in the PLO and the United States and normalization between the two parties."

Qaddumi Meets With USSR Ambassador in Tunis

JN0104195989 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1849 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], foreign minister of the State of Palestine, has received in Tunis Comrade Fedorovich Vladimir Sobchenko, USSR ambassador to Tunisia. During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels in light of the meetings of the joint Palestinian-USSR committee held in Moscow 3 days ago.

FRG Contacts With PLO Reportedly Stopped

LD0204183189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1623 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Bonn, April 2 (KUNA)—Yielding to Israeli pressure, West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher has stopped all contacts between his country and the PLO, causing a rift within his ministry, the usually reliable DER SPIEGEL reported Sunday.

The magazine said that Genscher has ordered the State Minister at the Foreign Ministry Helmut Schaefer who had met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in July 1987 in Algeria to stop all contacts with the PLO.

Official contacts between West Germany and officials from the Palestinian organisation then followed.

DER SPIEGEL added that Genscher's move has led to differences within the Foreign Ministry as some senior officials have expressed dissatisfaction over the move.

'Arafat Remarks at Land Day Rally Reported

JN0104191289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has asserted that our people's determination is the determination of free people, of the children of the RPG's, and of the children of stones—a determination that leads the intifadah [uprising] and that will continue it against the Zionist occupation until the achievement of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, our people's sole legitimate representative.

This came in the speech delivered by brother Abu 'Ammar during the rally organized by the Democratic Rally and the PLO the day before yesterday at the Labor Exchange in Tunis on the 13th anniversary of the blessed Land Day.

The rally was attended by brothers Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political department; Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member; Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member; Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis; Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh; Taieb Sahbani, assistant secretary general of the Constitutional Democratic Rally [title as heard]; a number of ambassadors of fraternal Arab and friendly states; and a large number of the Palestinian revolution's cadres and Tunisian masses.

In his speech, brother Abu 'Ammar praised Tunis and its people under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted].

Brother Abu 'Ammar explained that Land Day is not an ordinary day, but a day of the Palestinian people's adherence to this sacred land; the day of adherence by the Arab nation and all honorable and free people to this land, which is exploding in revolution and like a volcano. This is the basic meaning of Palestinian and Arab adherence to Land Day. This land will remain a Palestinian Arab land, whether the enemy likes it or not.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added that, despite all attempts, conspiracies, terrorism, oppression, and tyranny intended to destroy the Palestinian revolution and liquidate the PLO and despite the American-Israeli decision in 1982 to destroy the PLO's infrastructure, the Palestinian fighter stood fast in defense of the revolution and confronted all attempts to cancel the Palestinian figure from the Middle East equation. [passage omitted]

The brother leader and commander in chief explained that the recent statements by the U.S. secretary of state on Palestinian military operations in southern Lebanon [which described them] as acts of self-defense constitute a turning point in the U.S. stand and come as a result of the steadfastness brought about by the Palestinian miracle—fighting with rifle and stone and fighting on all fronts—where the Palestinian stone confronts the Zionist war machine. No one can face our people's determination to gain freedom and independence.

Further on Remarks

LD3103210589 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, stressed that Land Day for the Palestinian people, Arab nation, and all honorable and free people of the world represents a symbol of steadfastness and commitment to the sacred land, which is exploding like a volcano under the feet of the Zionist occupation, and which will always remain an Arab Palestinian land in spite of all oppression [word indistinct].

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar talked about the wars and battles fought at all levels by the Palestinian people to foil the schemes planned against him. During last evening's festival in Tunis commemorating the 13th anniversary of glorious Land day, he stressed that all those who were waiting for the collapse of the Palestinian independence option and for erasing the Palestinian symbol from the equation of the Middle East [words indistinct].

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar talked about Palestinian national unity, which materialized during the 19th PNC session, and which was intensified by the crises and the blessed uprising in the occupied territories. He called for supporting it, preserving it, and urged it not be abandoned under any circumstances.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar, after reviewing the huge sacrifices of the Palestinian people, pointed out the recorded improvement in the U.S. stance because of the steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people. He stressed that the stone generals [those who use stones to escalate the uprising] have forced a lifting of the siege from the Palestinian revolution and brought it out of the dark tunnel. [passage omitted]

Unified National Leadership Issues Call No 37

JN3103173489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 31 Mar 89

["Text" of call No 37, the "land call," issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah; date, place not given]

[Text] O masses of our heroic people; O you who have launched your courageous and gigantic intifadah [uprising] heedless of the grave sacrifices involved; O you who raised high the banner of the people's will to attain freedom and independence, the will that cannot be defeated by the massacres of the neofascists and that cannot be deterred by brutal repression from forging ahead until the realization of victory; O you have been confronting the Zionist war machine and the army, border guard, and police with your bare chests; O you whose blood, shed by patients, and tears, shed on martyrs, turn into oil that fuels the fires of the intifadah and makes its flames reach the skies:

We send our warm, militant greetings to the lofty-minded kinfolk who are not deterred by the enemy's repeated massacres from adhering to their right to freedom and independence. Shame and disgrace to the

neofascists, who do not hesitate to dispatch their tools of repression to perpetrate massacres in Nabulus, Gaza, and the remaining parts of our beloved homeland.

O masses of our people: We are now welcoming the great Palestinian Land Day anniversary, the day of the good earth, the day of defiance, confrontation, and defense of our Palestinian soil. On this day, the unity of the Palestinian people in all their places of residence, the unity of their land, and the unity of their cause and national struggle in defense of land and man and to secure the inalienable national rights become clear and manifest. Let all efforts be marshaled to mark this great anniversary through a general strike, comprehensive disobedience, and escalation of confrontations. Let us inflame the land of our Palestinian state under the feet of the occupiers. Let us make the life of their soldiers and settlers on our national soil unbearable.

O masses of our people in the parts of Palestine occupied in 1948: This is our day, the day of defending our land and the day of struggle for the sake of vindicating inalienable national rights. Let your efforts be concerted to support the glorious intifadah and affirm your Palestinian identity and adherence to your land, dignity, and defense of this land.

O masses of our heroic people: While our people are confronting the Nazi occupation army, during which the ugly and hideous face of the occupation is exposed daily, the military rule authorities and the Civil Administration invite some citizens to hold ceremonial, ostentatious, and courteous meetings with them in a desperate bid to beautify the ugly face of the occupation, absorb the wrath of our angry masses, and pursue the illusion of finding substitutes for the representative produced by history and baptized by suffering and sacrifice—the leader of our struggle, the PLO.

O masses of the intifadah: Beware, beware of being dragged behind these meetings, through which the military occupation leaders and their Civil Administration are trying to concentrate on some demands that are directly linked to the people's life, as if we are suffering only from these grievances and as if we could live in peace before the occupation of our land is completely terminated and before our independence and freedom on our national soil are attained.

In view of all this, and in the wake of the negative impression given by such meetings and the accompanying talk about living demands, in view of the media light shed on them as well as the harm they inflict on our intifadah, and out of our great confidence in our masses, the Unified National Leadership stresses the importance of putting an end to participation in such meetings. The Unified National Leadership emphasizes its previous calls, which stated that any official or unofficial dialogue or meeting should take place on the basis of the PLO's sole representation and abiding by the Palestine National Council's resolutions, headed by the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of a Palestinian state on the national soil.

The Unified National Leadership stresses that Shamir's anticipated visit to the United States and the liquidationist plans and solutions he will carry with him will founder on the rock of our people's steadfastness in the same manner as all previous liquidationist plans have foundered.

If the United States wants to be qualified to play a role in solving the Palestine question, the Unified National Leadership will then demand that it stop procrastinating on the holding of an authoritative international conference that will serve as a logical framework to resolve the Middle East question.

O masses of our people, we say this while stressing to the masses of the gigantic intifadah that the intransigence of the enemy and the procrastination of its primary ally, the United States, will founder on the rock of the continuation and escalation of your intifadah. Let all forms of the heroic struggle of the intifadah struggle be escalated—including the use of knives, axes, and Molotov cocktails—and intensify the throwing of large stones from the roofs of buildings.

Let us intensify attacks on the border guards to defeat them as we did the army, which began to realize the impossibility of its mission and its impotence to quell the intifadah of people who are determined to struggle and ready to offer all sorts of sacrifices for the sake of their freedom and independence. All forms of peaceful and violent struggle are legitimate until the expulsion of occupation.

Branding our legitimate struggle as terrorism does not change the fact that they are the terrorists who are armed to their teeth. It is we who are suffering under the yoke of occupation and are enduring repression and oppression without bowing or abandoning our right to a life that is free of fear, terrorism, and repression. With your resolution and determination, the intifadah will defeat Shamir and force him, sooner or later, to withdraw his army from the land of our independent state.

Our heroic masses: While the Unified National Leadership applauds the recognition of the independent Palestinian state by the Islamic Conference Organization, it resents the Arab states' stand on support for our burning intifadah in the occupied land: They neither honor their financial commitments nor take firm political action to back the intifadah. The intifadah does not need oral support alone; it needs solid stands that will expose the stands of the United States—our enemy's ally, and force it to consent to convening the international conference and to recognize our rights to freedom and independence. The intifadah wants our Arab masses to be given the liberty to support it.

The Unified National Leadership applauds the stands of the Socialist bloc that has upgraded the representative status of the PLO to embassy level. It further applauds the attitude of William Waldegrave, state minister at the British Foreign Office, who has denounced Zionist practices against our people. We salute the popular functions in a number of countries around the world to express solidarity with our people, including massive demonstrations in Europe. The intifadah denounces the Arab regimes' failure to respond to our suffering. The intifadah urges an immediate halt to the bloodletting in Lebanon. All efforts must be directed against the mean Zionist enemy that occupies our land and tortures our people.

The Unified National leadership sends its greetings to the heroic people of Namibia.

Our people's proud masses: In continuation of the heroic line of the intifadah, the Unified National Leadership emphasizes the need to abide by the following instructions:

First, a gradual 25-percent reduction in rent on real estate and homes.

Second, the need to promote a unionist spirit, resolving whatever disagreements may arise in the spirit of national unity and giving top priority to contradictions with and confrontation of the enemy.

Third, the need to ban trading in and marketing such Israeli goods as have [local] substitutes or that count as dispensable luxuries and to sanction the confiscation and destruction of such products. The strike forces are called upon to deal with peddlers of such goods and others who label them with Arabic names.

Fourth, the need to prohibit work in Zionist settlements. Nationalist local leaders, popular committees, and strike forces are charged with addressing this matter by guidance and enlightenment, making certain they avoid using violence, which is to be used only against enemies, collaborators, and losers who must be eliminated from our ranks by exposing them, proscribing them socially, and beating them until they announce their repentance and return to the right path. We warn against the statements and other things spread by enemy organs and containing the names of decent citizens with a view to undermining trust and creating confusion in our ranks.

Fifth, seizing the property of those who have not resigned their jobs in the agencies of the Civil Administration and charging the strike forces with pursuing them. He who has issued warnings is excused.

Sixth, strike forces have to work to seize and burn tax statements and close the offices of the auditors who collect taxes and submit statements to the tax authorities.

Seventh, the Unified National Leadership urges all pharmacists to strictly commit themselves to close after 1200 and agree among themselves about the pharmacists to be on duty so as not to exceed five stores in each area.

Eighth, the Unified National Leadership calls on our Palestinian people's masses to display commitment and discipline by respecting the doctors and employees working in all hospitals and to allow them to carry out their national and humanitarian role in full.

Ninth, the Unified National Leadership urges all our people to see to storing foodstuffs in anticipation of any emergency.

O masses of our people: While paying respect to our people who are staging the intifadah in Gaza, Nabulus, Janin, Tulkarm, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Al-Jalazun, Al-Duhaysha, and Al-Am'ari and in all camps, villages, and cities of our beloved country, the Unified National Leadership urges them to carry out the following activities.

—Thursday, 30 March 1989, Land Day, is the day for tempestuous anger dominated by a general strike and is a day in which mammoth popular demonstrations and violent clashes with the tools of oppression of the occupation and its settlers are intensified.

—Friday, 31 March, is the day for solidarity with the wounded and parents of martyrs and detainees and for paying visits to their houses.

—Saturday, 1 April, is a day for broad popular marches to be attended by men, women, old people, youths, and children in all of our people's residential areas at the time when the democratic forces and the Peace Now Movement will stage solidarity marches with the intifadah of our people's masses.

—Sunday, 2 April, is a day for popular and home education on the occasion of the extension of the closure of schools.

—On 3 and 4 April will be days for organizational activities, during which the forces will support the ranks of the popular committees and strike forces, broaden them, and settle all problems brought about by the circumstances of struggle with national horizons.

—Wednesday, 5 April, is devoted to practicing forms of violent struggle during which knives, axes, and large stones are to be used from the rooftops of buildings. The enemy must know that we will not allow it to escape the punishment of history and people.

—Thursday, 6 April: On the occasion of Shamir's visit to the United States, the Unified National Leadership calls on all national organizations and institutions to send cables and memos of protest against the U.S. and Israeli policy, which is hostile to our people's rights.

—Friday, 7 April, the anniversary of struggler 'Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni's martyrdom, is a day in which Palestinian flags are to be hoisted on houses and in the streets.

—On 8 and 9 April will be days for a general strike on the occasion of the passage of 16 months of the intifadah and the anniversary of the Dayr Yasin massacre. They are also devoted to violent militant activities to avenge our martyrs' souls in our people's intifadah.

—Monday, 10 April, is a day of escalation [as heard] on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the Palestinian leaders, Kamal Nasir, Kamal 'Adwan, and Abu Yusuf [Muhammad Yusuf] al-Najjar in Beirut.

—On 11 and 12 April are days of agricultural and cooperative activities when a return should be made to the land and a contribution should be made to establishing cooperative societies.

More struggle, sacrifices, and confrontations with the enemy and its herds of settlers. Let us avenge the blood of martyrs and the pain of the people.

Long live the PLO, our Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. Long live the eternal Land Day. Glory and immortality to our pure martyrs.

Algeria

Ministry Communique Bars Politics From Mosques

LD0104230489 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The Ministry of Religious Affairs has issued clarifications following a communique by the association called the Islamic Salvation Front, in which it responded to the communique issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs regarding preserving the sacred character of mosques.

I quote: The Ministry of Religious Affairs considers that it is our duty to put an end to all ambiguities and thus serve the law and the law alone. The open libraries—and I am still quoting—are part and parcel of the mosques. The most astonishing thing is that the area reserved for women at the Ibn al-Haddad Mosque has been turned into a dormitory and supplied with bedding.

As for the statement that mosques are centers of worship, politics, and culture—the Ministry of Religious Affairs continues—this was true when there was only one politics—Islamic culture—but as there are now various types of politics and cultures, it would be nonsensical and irreligious to allow the mosques to become sites of political and cultural confrontation, regardless of the affiliation of the associations. Each association has its own claims and demands, be they political or cultural.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs also makes it clear that the mosques must distance themselves from such conflicts, because God's (? servants) are above such activities.

Egypt

Mubarak Leaves for 6-Day Visit to U.S.

NC0104083589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his wife left Cairo this morning for Washington on a 6-day visit to the United States.

President Mubarak is scheduled to hold important political and economic talks with U.S. President George Bush. The talks deal with the need to convene an international peace conference to achieve a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the Middle East, and will touch on the issue of debts and the possibility of finding a solution for this problem.

President Mubarak will also hold talks with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, Secretary of State James Baker, and members of the Congress Foreign Affairs Committee. On Wednesday morning, Mubarak will leave for New York, where he will give an important speech before the Foreign Relations Society. Before his departure from New York on Wednesday evening, President Mubarak is scheduled to hold a meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Arrives in United States

NC0104214889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak arrived tonight at the U.S. Andrews Air Force Base on an official 4-day visit to the United States.

During his visit, President Mubarak will hold talks with U.S. President George Bush and will meet with senior U.S. Administration officials, members of Congress, and U.S. businessmen. The president will conclude his visit with a quick stop in New York for talks with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, before leaving the United States for Cairo.

Our radio team in Washington has learned that the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Bush will deal with three important issues related to the peace process, in addition to security matters in the Middle East, and the strengthening of bilateral relations, particularly in the economic sphere. Official talks between the two presidents will begin on Monday [3 April].

To Submit New Peace Proposals

JN0204091289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 2 Apr (WAKH)—Press reports here in Doha said today that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who began a visit yesterday to the United States, will submit a new proposal on the Middle East peace process.

The Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH said that the proposals which President Mubarak will present to the administration of U.S. President George Bush have been agreed upon by the Egyptian president, King Husayn of Jordan, and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat during their Ismailia meeting last week. The paper added that these proposals won the support of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, who has recently visited Cairo.

The newspaper quoted Egyptian and Palestinian sources as saying that the proposals provide for the convening of an inaugural conference session to be attended by representatives of the five big powers under the auspices of the UN secretary general and also for the formation of Arab-Israeli political, geographic, and security committees. The proposals state that representatives of the Palestinian people will be selected from the occupied territories to join the Jordanian delegation to the direct negotiations, with the understanding that these Palestinians will be identified as the representatives of the State of Palestine whose establishment was proclaimed by the recent Algiers session of the Palestine National Council.

Ghali Reacts To Sudan's Canceling of Treaty

JN0204181189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Washington]

[Text] In the first Egyptian reaction to the Sudanese prime minister's announcement that canceled the Sudanese-Egyptian joint defense treaty, Dr Butrus Ghali, who is currently in Washington, told our radio that it is not treaties that are important but the political will of the two sides. If the political will to adhere to the treaty is not avaiable to either side then the treaty will not be of substance.

Dr Ghali said that the Egyptian diplomacy is endeavoring to settle and not aggravate the dispute between north and south Sudan. Egypt believes that the aim is to realize peace through national reconciliation.

A senior Egyptian official told me that the joint defense treaty was established to confront any external aggression against either country. This does not apply to civil wars or internal troubles. What is threatening Sudan's independence is not neigboring states but internal confrontations resulting from contradictions within the Sudanese society.

Recently, Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq a-Mahdi criticized Egypt's failure to extend military assisance to Sudan to mount attacks on the south.

Al-Asad Reportedly Agrees To Meet Mubarak

JN0304100289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 3 Apr (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that Egypt yesterday received an urgent message from one of the countries that mediated to normalize relations between it and Syria on President Hafiz al-Asad's agreement to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in any Arab capital in the presence of a third party. AL-RAYAH says that the message was immediately conveyed to President Mubarak in the United States. Mubarak expressed his pleasure at the content of the message and affirmed that his relations with President al-Asad are deep and that he is a brother-in-arms.

In another development, AL-RAYAH cited a high-ranking Egyptian source as saying that President Husni Mubarak will affirm to U.S. President George Bush in their meeting today that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposals, which he intends to declare during his visit to the United States, will add nothing new to the peace process but will obstruct the peaceful march.

It is noteworthy that Shamir, who did not disclose his proposals, announced many times his refusal to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East despite world consensus on the need to convene a UN-sponsored international conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO. The Israeli prime minister also rejects the principle of land in exchange for peace.

'Arafat Appointment as President Welcomed

NC0204112189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Sources at the Foreign Ministry have stated that Egypt welcomes the Palestinian people's decision to appoint Yasir 'Arafat as president of the Palestinian state. The Palestinian Central Council today unanimously appointed 'Arafat as president of the Palestinian State proclaimed by the Palestine National Council on 15 November last.

Source on Mubarak Conditions To Meet Shamir

NC0304064589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Washington, 2 Apr (MENA)—An official source in the political delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak on his visit to Washington has stated that the president does not object to holding a meeting with any official or head of state if these meetings can serve the cause of peace and add something new to known positions or lead to breaking the vicious circle. The source said that President Mubarak has placed a clear dividing line between meetings for the purpose of taking commemorative photographs and serious, purposeful, and well-prepared meetings designed to activate the peace process.

In a statement to the AL-AHRAM correspondent in Washington, the source said that President Mubarak is ready to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir if such a meeting will create a new positive position and when Israel responds positively to the calls and positions of public opinion in the world, and even in Israel; begins a dialogue with the PLO; agrees to the convening of an international conference; and recognizes Palestinian rights.

The source said that until a constructive Israeli position takes shape it would be impossible to hold any meeting with Shamir because he does not have anything new to offer and still adheres to old positions that cannot serve as a starting point to reaching a solution.

The source explained that the time has come for serious and decisive action to achieve progress. All the opportunities are now available for this and there is no justification for wasting time and effort in discussing outdated issues.

Meanwhile, AL-AHRAM quotes an Egyptian official as saying that President Mubarak will avoid secondary issues in his talks in Washington and will not respond to false accusations that are designed to divert the talks from their right and required course.

The official stated that Egypt is ready to discuss any subject which President Bush and his senior aides raise, if these issues are serious and seek to confirm certain positions.

The Egyptian official noted that the entire world, and the United States in particular, knows that Egypt was one of the first countries to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It was also the country that called for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East and in the Mediterranean basin, which every year submits to the United Nations a draft resolution on this issue, and which is working for the achievement of stability in the Middle East for the benefit of its people and the peoples of the region.

Prince Sa'ud, 'Abd al-Majid Hold Conference

NC3103141989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a joint news conference at the Al-Qubbah presidential palace this morning. Egyptian, Arab, and foreign media correspondents attended.

At the outset of the conference, the Saudi foreign minister described President Muhammad Husni Mubarak as the best person to represent the Arab image to the outside world. He made this remark on the occasion of President Mubarak's imminent visit to the United States.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that President Mubarak and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are among the leaders who are eager to work and get things accomplished, and not indulge in mere talk.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who was speaking at the news conference, which was held after the joint Egyptian-Saudi communique and the agreement forming a joint committee between the two countries were signed, said: A proposal that the Arab League apply a system of majority vote to replace the current system stipulating unanimity is being studied. He emphasized that King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, is giving much attention to this issue.

The Saudi minister confirmed what the custodian of the two holy mosque said yesterday to the effect that Egypt will be at the forefront of the states that will participate in the first extraordinary Arab summit.

Referring to the nonaggression agreement that the custodian of the two holy mosques and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn signed, the Saudi foreign minister said: The custodian of the two holy mosques wishes that this agreement would apply to all the Arab states. It is natural that such ties should exist between them. However, he pointed out that the agreement was proposed by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and that the custodian of the two holy mosques welcomed it.

Answering a question about the Saudi efforts to achieve Egyptian-Syrian reconciliation, he described the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques as constant and continuing. He added that it is natural for him to focus these efforts on two countries like Egypt and Syria, which have a long Arab history. There are signs indicating that those two countries' relations will return to normal.

Regarding Saudi Arabia's approval of the participation of Iranian pilgrims in this year's pilgrimage, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: We did not prevent the Iranian pilgrims from making the pilgrimage last year; rather, it was the Iranian Government that had prevented them. We will not prevent any Muslim pilgrims from Iran or from any other country from making the pilgrimage at any time.

Regarding yesterday's reports that the Palestinian people have chosen Yasir 'Arafat as president of the state of Palestine, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: We very much welcome the establishment of the state of Palestine, as well as the Palestinian people's choice as president. We give Yasir 'Arafat our full support.

Commenting on the same question, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the decision announced yesterday is a continuation of the Palestine National Council [PNC] decisions and an extension of the decision to proclaim the state of Palestine.

Answering a question about the Arab summit in Riyadh or an emergency summit in Morocco, on which consultations are currently taking place, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: Efforts are being made by the costodian of the two holy mosques to prepare for a regular Arab summit conference in Saudi Arabia. The custodian of the two holy mosques referred to this in his news conference yesterday, when he said that efforts are being made and that a regular summit will be called when preparations are completed.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: The custodian of the two holy mosques said yesterday that, if a need arises for the convening of an emergency Arab summit, Egypt and Saudi Arabia will be the first to attend. We welcome an extraordinary emergency summit at any time. Efforts are continuing to prepare for a regular summit conference.

Asked about the rebuilding of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the Israeli threats on this, and Egypt's position on such threats against a member state of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said: We do not accept and we reject in form and substance any Israeli or non-Israeli threats. He added: You should recall Egypt's

reaction at the time that Israel carried out its aggression against the Iraqi reactor. Our position since then has not changed, and it will not change.

Asked about the future cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia in the various fields, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: This cooperation was not born today. Our peoples' cooperation in the cultural field, in particular, has a history of several centuries. I believe that the visit of the custodian of the two holy mosques opened not only one path to cooperation between the two countries, but wide vistas in all fields, whether cultural, political, or economic. The effects of this visit will be felt in the economic and cultural fields.

Responding to a question on the adoption of a unanimous Arab stand on the Lebanese crisis and on the Syrian presence in Lebanon, particularly as a resolution was issued in 1976 calling for the departure of foreign forces from Lebanon, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal noted that the Lebanese issue was mentioned in several paragraphs in the joint communique. He also pointed out that a committee formed by the Arab League and representing the joint Arab effort is currently endeavoring to resolve the Lebanese problem.

He said that this committee is working diligently, adding that its first step was the report it had prepared and submitted to the Arab League Council. The council expressed support for the committee's action and for its continued work, and also called on the Lebanese brothers to respond to the committee's efforts. He noted that the committee would naturally seek to find a basis for solving the Lebanese problem, whether with regard to accord and conciliation among the parties concerned in Lebanon, or with regard to the foreign troops.

Regarding the remarks that the custodian of the two holy mosques made yesterday on the nonaggression treaty which his majesty signed with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and which he had described as an ideal for the Arab world, Prince Sa'ud was asked whether these remarks could be interpreted as an invitation to other Arab states to join this treaty and said: In fact, the agreement with Iraq has been announced by his majesty, the custodian of the two holy mosques, who expressed the hope that all Arab states would follow suit because the agreement was formulated according to the Arab League Charter. He described the relations between Iraq and the Saudi Kingdom as excellent and distinctive, and said that they may be taken as an example for relations between any two Arab states.

Al-Faysal said it is logical for the two countries to be linked by the type of ties stipulated in the agreement. Such an agreement is natural, he said, emphasizing that it will be useful because of the regrettable disintegration and lack of confidence that prevailed among Arab countries in the past. Al-Faysal went on to say that the Iraqi president's proposal to sign the agreement had been welcomed by his majesty, the custodian of the two holy mosques. Such an agreement is natural between two countries linked by ties such as those between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, he said. He also expressed the hope that Arab countries will follow suit, and said: God willing, we will work together to convince the Arab states to make progress in this direction.

Responding to another question on Saudi efforts to reconcile Egypt and Syria, Al-Faysal said that his majesty's efforts to achieve Arab solidarity never cease, and that they form the basis of his majesty's policy. He added: It is only natural that the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques and the other Arab brothers be focused on achieving rapproachement between two countries like Egypt and Syria, which have such great histories. Naturally, this is something that we aspire to he said, and added: It is very reassuring and promising that the two countries wish to restore their normal relations.

Responding to a question on scopes of cooperation between the Arab Cooperation Council and the Gulf Cooperation Council in the coming stage, Al-Faysal said there are no limits to such cooperation, because the established cooperation councils represent frameworks for cooperation among Arab countries. He said: Through the establishment of these new institutions, we hope to promote collective Arab cooperation within the framework of the Arab League, a goal that was pointed out in our joint communique.

Responding to another question about areas in which the two countries could cooperate, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said the perspectives of bilateral cooperation could not be summed up in a single document. He remarked: When we started to consider this issue, and how and where to begin, we discovered that all the factors needed for cooperation, such as the popular foundation, cohesion, and so on, were present. We found that the best way to begin was by drawing up the framework that determines what each government should do, as well as to encourage joint investments.

Al-Faysal added: We discovered that the best way to achieve this was by setting up a joint committee, for which an agreement has been signed. This committee, he explained, will determine the activities proposed in the various political, economic, social fields, in addition to transport and communications. The committee will be chaired jointly by the prime ministers of both countries, and will comprise the ministers of finance and economy and other ministers, according to the nature of the activity proposed by the committee.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal added: There is a preparatory committee that will meet periodically and precede the joint committee by 1 month. As for the joint committee, it will meet in each of the two countries every 6 months. He added: His Excellency President Mubarak and the custodian of the two holy mosques are the type of leaders

who are eager to work and not to rely on words. This trait naturally has affected the two governments and the officials in Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Commenting on the same question, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: The agreement forming this committee was signed only minutes ago. The text is very clear in setting out the aims of this agreement. The committee will commence its operations through the work of a preparatory committee. It will convene its first meeting in August, God willing. The joint committee will then meet at the ministerial level.

Asked about the recent statements by the Sudanese prime minister, in which he said that the volume of Saudi aid to Sudan was insufficient, and whether President Mubarak and the Sudanese State Council chairman discussed in their talks yesterday the framework of cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Sudan, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: I believe that the Sudanese State Council chairman's visit yesterday and his talks with President Mubarak must have an effect on developing cooperation and understanding in our region.

He noted that Sudanese-Saudi relations are open and that the Sudanese State Council chairman will visit Saudi Arabia on Monday [3 April] for talks. He added: We do not pay attention to what is being said about Sudanese-Saudi relations. Our relationship is strong. Nothing can affect the ties and bonds between the two peoples in Saudi Arabia and Sudan and between the two peoples in Egypt and Sudan, because these ties and bonds have firm bases.

Responding to another question about the statement by the custodian of the two holy mosques yesterday that the Arab League should adopt decisions by majority and not unanimous vote, Sa'ud al-Faysal said: During yesterday's meeting, the custodian of the two holy mosques proposed a full concept that could help develop the Arab League so that it could be in line with the ambitions of the Arab nation and the joint Arab action. He added: The custodian of the two holy mosques said that joint Arab action within the Arab League framework has been weakened for several reasons in the past.

He said that enabling the Arab League to perform its task and to be of help to, and not a burden on, the Arab summit, would have a positive effect on the joint Arab action. Decisions must be adopted by majority vote in the Arab League so that it can move forward. The custodian of the two holy mosques is very enthusiastic about all these issues because they constitute the basis for the joint Arab action, the Arab League Charter, and the Joint Defense Pact.

Replying to a question on the statement by the custodian of the two holy mosques on Egypt's participation in the coming Arab summit, he said that the custodian of the two holy mosques said that when the summit is held, Egypt, God willing, will the first to attend. We consider this issue to be settled.

Replying to another question on the future Egyptian-Saudi relations in the sphere of economic cooperation, Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal said that economic relations between the two countries were among the issues that were discussed exhaustively. He added: We have made a number of important decisions at all levels of bilateral cooperation in this regard.

Asked about the debts of debtor countries, which now stand at more than $200 billion, he said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as a developing country, is aware of the debt problem and considers it to be one of the most important currently faced by the developing countries in particular. He said: We in Saudi Arabia differentiate between two issues. The first concerns the high-interest loans given by the banks, which are threatening the economy of the developing countries. A solution must be found to this. The French have put forward proposals, but we have yet learn of their details. The United States has put forward another proposal, the details of which have started to emerge.

Prince Sa'ud said that the other subject has to do with interest-bearing loans from major countries, noting that this issue must be dealt with.

He pointed out that developing countries cannot at all repay high-interest loans. He pointed to a proposal put forward by Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Ahmad al-Jabir, and noted that this proposal, among others, is being considered as a way to solve the debt issue.

Responding to another question on whether Iranian pilgrims will be permitted to participate in the pilgrimage this year, Al-Faysal said: We welcome Iranian pilgrims each and every season. He added that Iranian pilgrims have never been prevented from participating in the pilgrimage. Al-Faysal noted that their absence last season had not been the result of a decision by Saudi Arabia.

The prince was asked about the meeting between the custodian of the two holy mosques and President Mubarak, and Mubarak's recent meeting with the Jordanian king and Yasir 'Arafat, and whether these indicate a will on the part of the three leaders to coordinate with and support President Mubarak in his upcoming talks with U.S. President Bush. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: His majesty, the custodian of the two holy mosques, was naturally clear in his support for this visit to Washington, and expressed the hope that it would succeed and make progress by taking active steps toward peace in our region.

He said: I have not the slightest doubt that the three leaders support President Husni Mubarak, adding: Egypt has its Arab history and President Mubarak is the best representative of the Arab peace drive.

Prince Sa'ud was asked about the PLO's announcement yesterday that the Palestinian people have selected Yasir 'Arafat to be the president of the Palestinian state. Al-Faysal said: We have welcomed the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state and, naturally, we welcome the person whom the Palestinian people select as a president. He added that Yasir 'Arafat has a long history of struggle.

Al-Faysal added: As president of the Palestinian state, Yasir 'Arafat undoubtedly will maintain the same standard of determination and effort to realize the aspirations of the Palestinian people. We give him all of our support.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid further commented on this question by saying: I believe that the decision announced yesterday is, in fact, a continuation of the PNC's decision to proclaim the Palestinian state. He added: Yesterday's announcement contained nothing that was new; rather, it was a natural decision and an extension of the PNC's resolutions.

Asked at the conclusion of the news conference whether Egypt's participation in the next Arab summit has been settled, Al-Faysal said: We believe that the next Arab summit cannot be held unless Egypt attends. He added: The first item on the agenda of this summit must be the reinstatement of Egypt as a member of the Arab League.

Sa'ud al-Faysal then referred to the Egyptian peoples' warm welcome for his majesty, the custodian of the two holy mosques, which his majesty had described yesterday as a medal on his chest.

Joint Committee Formed

NC3103172689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—An agreement setting up a joint committee between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was signed at the Foreign Ministry today. The committee will hold consultations and coordinate between the two countries on issues of common interest in the fields of economic, trade, cultural, scientific, and information cooperation. It also will follow up the implementation of the agreements, treaties, and cooperation programs concluded between the two countries.

The agreement was signed on the Egyptian side by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and on the Saudi side by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister and member of the delegation accompanying King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on his current visit to Egypt.

The Egyptian-Saudi agreement, which was signed today, stipulates that the foreign ministers of both countries, will head the joint committee, which will include both countries' ministers of finance and economy as members. Ministers will participate in the committee's meetings according to the issues that the committee will study. The joint Egyptian-Saudi committee will hold a session alternately in the capital of each of the two states every 6 months. The first session will be held in Cairo in the first half of September. [passage omitted]

Fahd Concludes Visit

NC3103185789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi monarch and custodian of the two holy mosques, departed safely from Cairo this evening, following a 5-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. His majesty was accorded an official farewell ceremony at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah this evening.

The farewell ceremony was headed by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub; People's Assembly speaker; Dr 'Ali Lutf Consultative Council speaker; Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; the deputy prime ministers; ministers; Cairo governor; and Arab ambassadors in Cairo.

Libya

Further on Visit by Sudan's Al-Mirghani

Comments on Visit

LD0104102989 Tripoli JANA in English 0816 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Al-Bayda, Al-Tayr [April] 1, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, the president of the Sudanese United Democratic Party, visited in the company of Colonel Abu Bakr-Yunis Jabir yesterday the municipality of Jabal al-Akhdar

Al-Mirghani was met on his arrival by the secretary of the People's Congress and People's Committee for the Municipality of Jabal al-Akhdar as well as members of selective committees of the municipality. He and the members of his delegation toured the municipality branch (Al-Marj) and the municipality branch (Al-Bayda) inspecting various achievements realised, thanks to the great Al-Fatih revolution, at the municipality of Jabal al-Akhdar.

Al-Mirghani made a statement to JANA saying that this visit comes within the context of the consolidation of fraternal ties and distinguished relations linking the same Arab people in great Jamahiryah and Sudan and such visits must continue so as to be able to consult and debate various issues of common interest between the two sisterly countries. He lauded, in his statement, the colossal achievements realised in great Jamahiriyah thanks to the Great Al-Fatih revolution.

Notes Dialogue To Continue

LD0204093589 Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Al-Tayr 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The United Democratic Party of sisterly Sudan asserted that great Jamahiriyah reiterated its firm stance and unlimited support to the Arab people of Sudan for the sake of the success of its efforts towards peace and the removal of the source of tensions in the region.

In a statement today after the end of the visit of the president of the party Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani to great Jamahiriyah, the party said that bilateral agreement was reached on the bolstering of unity of objective and destiny, refusal of the reality of fragmentation and division and the safeguarding of the Sudanese national unity as the basis for its major orientations.

Also the party announced that great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Sudan agreed on the continuation of dialogue, understanding and consultation in bilateral and Arab issues.

Ends Visit, Leaves

LD0204092889 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal, Al-Tayr 2 JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, the president of the Sudanese United Democratic Party, and the delegation in his company yesterday left the international airport of Bnina after a visit to great Jamahiryah.

Colonel Abu Bakr headed the farewell party which included the secretaries of the People's Congress for Banghazi, Al-Jabal al-Akhdar, a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and the ambassador of Sudan to great Jamahiryah.

Al-Mirghani expressed, in a statement to JANA, his great appreciation for the unlimited support provided by the leader of the revolution and the sisterly great Jamahiryah's people for the people of Sudan.

He concluded his statement by expressing his admiration for the comprehensive development taking place in all fields in great Jamahiryah thanks to the great Al-Fatih revolution citing in this respect the industrial productive fortresses and projects which he visited during his visit to great Jamahiryah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Sudan's Hasan al-Turabi

LD0104154889 Tripoli JANA English 1433 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 1, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The leader of the revolution received Hasan al-Turabi, the president of the Sudanese Islamic National Front, and a delegation of the front in his company.

Government To 'Revise' 'Diplomatic Network'

LD3103193689 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1820 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Tripoli, March 31 (TANJUG)—The Libyan Government is preparing a sweeping clean-up and reorganisation of its diplomatic network abroad, according to AL-JAMAHIRIYAH, the organ of the revolutionary committees.

The newspaper today announces a campaign to revise the diplomatic network and makes serious accusations against "a number" of ambassadors and diplomatic staff, saying they will come under the "decisive strike" of the revolutionary forces.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH writes that these officials have become "ambassadors of whisky and vodka" and that instead of doing their work, the reason the people sent them abroad, they are spending "red nights" in holes across the world or are "preying upon their compatriots".

It has been determined that a large number of heads (ambassadors) of Libyan People's Bureaus (embassies) have not fulfilled fundamental revolutionary obligations and that in addition some of them do not meet even the most elementary professional criteria. The diplomatic service was recently sharply criticised at a People's Congress (assembly).

The Bureau for Foreign Relations (Foreign Ministry) has been instructed to carry out an analysis of the "revolutionary profile" of the personnel abroad, warning that embassies must observe the principles of the people's jamahiriyah instead of being "classic embassies" alienated from the policy and decisions of the jamahiriyan base—the basic people's conferences. It was also requested to cut the staff of the Libyan People's Bureaus.

Morocco

Exiled Official Returns, Reportedly Arrested

NC3103150789 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Rabat, March 31 (AFP)—Morocco's Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP) has confirmed the arrest of its exiled Central Committee member Mohamed Ait Kaddour after he flew in here to take part

in the movement's fifth national congress. Members of the opposition USFP told AFP late Thursday that they had no idea what had happened to Mr. Ait Kaddour since his arrest Wednesday.

He was sentenced to death in his absence after being found guilty of a part in an assassination bid against King Hassan II in August 1972. Since 1972, Mr. Ait Kaddour, formerly a harbour director in Morocco, has been living in exile in France.

His wife said in a statement in Paris Thursday that he had had political refugee status since 1973 and had flown to Rabat with a ticket provided by the French office for the protection of refugees and stateless persons (OFPRA).

Sudan

Al-Mahdi: Defense Pact With Egypt 'Null and Void'

JN0204150089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said today that Sudan will begin legal proceedings to cancel the Sudanese-Egyptian joint defense agreement. He said Sudan considers this agreement null and void and if this requires legal proceedings, Sudan will begin such proceedings.

The Sudanese prime minister's statement comes following a statement by President Mubarak in which he said that the joint defense agreement is in Sudan's interest and has not been canceled by either country. President Mubarak made this remark during a joint press conference with Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, in Cairo last Thursday [30 March].

On another level, Omdurman radio said the Sudanese Government will dispatch a delegation to Addis Ababa tomorrow for talks with the leaders of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army led by John Garang and to inform them that Khartoum has officially agreed to last year's peace agreement.

Delegation To Visit Addis Ababa 'Next Week'

EA3103194089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1016 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 March—It has been decided that a delegation will travel to Addis Ababa next week. The members of the delegation will be Lieutenant General Yusuf Ahmad Yusuf, retired, Prof Hammad Umar Baqadi, and Dr Taysir Muhammad Ahmad. It will notify John Garang's movement that the Sudanese peace initiative has been officially accepted. Mr Sid Ahmad al-Husayn, foreign minister and chairman of the peace committee's operations room, revealed this to the press following a meeting of the committee held here yesterday evening.

His excellency said the delegation would carry a letter from Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister, setting out the government's acceptance of the initiative and a similar letter from Mr Sid Ahmad al-Husayn himself. Mr Sid Ahmad al-Husayn also (?said) it had been decided to convene a meeting of the political forces that signed the phased program and to approve and support the peace initiative. The purpose of the meeting, to be held on 5 April, is to notify them of (?the steps) taken to implement the peace initiative.

Transport of Relief Supplies To Begin 1 Apr

NC3103165089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Mar (MENA)—Dr al-Haj al-Tayyib al-Tahir, commissioner general for relief in Sudan, has disclosed that, following the agreement between the government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] to the UN appeal to cease fire during April to permit the transport of relief aid, the transport of relief supplies to the areas in southern Sudan suffering from starvation will start tomorrow, Saturday.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Khartoum, Dr al-Tahir said that a higher ministerial committee has been formed under Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to supervise the distribution of relief to the refugees and sufferers according to certain priorities. The committee will hold a meeting tongiht to determine when the transportation of relief products actually will begin.

He added that those suffering from famine in Sudan need 173,000 tons of food; of this, 109,000 tons are needed for the areas under the control of the Sudanese forces and 64,000 tons for the areas under the control of the SPLA. The total cost of these foodstuffs is $132 million, of which, he revealed, the United States and the EC have provided $82 million to implement the relief operation. This amount in fact has been received by the Commission for Relief in Sudan.

Dr al-Tayyib al-Tahir also said that a delegation from the U.S. AID department arrived in Khartoum today with more aid. Four planes also arrived in Khartoum today as a present from the United States to transport the foodstuffs to the affected areas. Italy has promised to send another two planes. Fourteen water tanks, each of around 800 tons capacity, also have arrived and will be set up in the inflicted area.

He added that instructions has been issued to all the ships anchored in Malakal port, Bahr al-Ghazal Province, to return to Kush port to be loaded with foodstuffs before returning to Malakal before mid-April. Instructions also have been issued to trains to return to Minith Bamatus to carry foodstuffs and return to Uwaysk port before mid-April.

The commissioner general denied that Juba Province is suffering from famine. He said the number of refugees from Juba had reached around 170,000 by 18 March and that there is enough food in the province to last 10 days. He referred to the high percentage of deaths among those affected in the south, blaming this on the inability to get foodstuffs to them because of the ongoing fighting there. He stressed that the commission for relief has prepared a plan to send all the food relief to all the affected areas from now until the end of the year.

UNICEF Head Says Relief Supplies Arrive

NC0104180789 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, April 1 (AFP)—Thousands of tonnes of supplies arrived in Sudan Saturday in the first stage of a massive operation to save famine- and civil war-stricken populations in the south, the head of UNICEF said here. James Grant, director general of the United Nations Children's Fund and special UN envoy to Sudan, said 100,000 tonnes of essential supplies were due to arrive before the beginning of the rainy season in May. Heavy rains can completely cut the south off from the rest of Sudan.

He said a convoy of trucks bearing the United Nations emblem was on its way to Muglad, in the south of Kurdufan Province, while a second convoy had left Kenya for Kapoeta, a town in Equatoria Province held by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and where the United Nations has set up an office.

Mr. Grant said supplies were being transported by road, air, rail and sea to avoid a "disaster" which he said would be comparable to the bombing of Hiroshima. He added that the rescue operation could continue until mid-May, "if all goes well."

The government and SPLA have called a cease-fire for the month of April to facilitate the relief operation.

Tunisia

'Landslide Victory' for Ben Ali in Elections

NC0304113589 Paris AFP in English 1119 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, April 3 (AFP)—Tunisians voted by more than 98 per cent to endorse the mandate of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and gave a landslide victory to his Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD) in presidential and legislative elections on Sunday, according to official results out Monday.

Officials hailed the president's score of between 98.10 and 99.99 percent according to districts, as a plebiscite for the man who seized power in November 1987 after deposing the ageing Habib Bourguiba. Mr. Ben Ali, 53, was the sole candidate for the five-year presidential mandate.

Results are still awaited from two of the country's 25 constituencies but were expected to conform to the general pattern.

In the legislative poll RCD candidates swept the board everywhere although "independent" candidates backed by Islamic fundamentalists polled between 15 and 30 per cent in some areas.

Paradoxically, the independents made their best showing in Tunis, the capital, and not as expected in the religious bastion of Kairouan, a stronghold of the fundamentalists during the Bourguiba era. In Kairouan, "independent" candidates who threatened Sunday to withdraw from the election because of RCD "abuses" failed to win more than five per cent. However, in Monastir, the hometown of ex-president Bourguiba, the independents are officially credited with 22 per cent.

Results from 13 constituencies issued by the Interior Ministry at midday Monday showed that RCD candidates had won 66 out of the 141 parliamentary seats.

In the two Tunis constituencies, lists led by Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh and Parliament Speaker Slaheddine Baly won all 15 seats. Youth and Sports Minister Hammouda Ben Slama was elected on the RCD ticket in suburban Ben Arous.

Five opposition parties and 21 independent candidates ran in the election which was the first multi-party election in Tunisia since 1956. The lay opposition Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS)—the biggest opposition grouping—won only a small percentage of votes in the eight constituencies where it fielded candidates. The MDS polled slightly more than two per cent in Kairouan and about three per cent in Mahdia and Kasserin.

Tunis Radio Notes Victory

LD0304134189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The results of the presidential elections have affirmed that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali enjoys the unanimous support of the people and that the very high percentage by which President Ben Ali was elected is proof that Tunisians are all rallied around the principles of the change which have come as a consecration of the spirit of democracy in Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Opposition Denounces Polling 'Irregularities'

LD0204195389 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpts] In Tunisia the opposition mounted a defense a few hours after the opening of the polls for the presidential and legislative elections. In fact, the opposition has denounced numerous irregularities. Thus, the Democratic Socialist Movement [MDS] decided notably to withdraw all its observers from the polling stations. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Patrice Bianco, you are on the line. This proves that this election has been held in quite a tense climate, in many places at any rate:

[Bianco] Yes, but before talking to you about that, I would like to tell you that as I talk to you, I have just learned that the MDS, Mr Mestiri's party, has also decided not to attend the vote counting. This decision is not at all surprising: it comes after the withdrawal of the observers, about which you have just spoken, and follows a series of complaints addressed to the public authorities.

In addition, one should perhaps stress that the MDS, the Democratic Socialist Movement, is not the only one to complain: the RCD [Democratic Constitutional Rally] the party in power, has also reported violence, attempts at imposing pressure, and threats to which it has allegedly been subjected. As for the independents, supported by the Islam supporters, the story is exactly the same: Some of them have stated that red voting papers of the RCD had been offered to people in some polling stations in Taklisah in Watan al-Qibli Governorate and Zawawin in Banzart Governorate.

Finally, as far as public opinion is concerned, people in the streets of Tunis are adopting a wait and see attitude for the time being. There is no sounding of car horns, there are no major demonstrations of joy: the Avenue Bourguiba is calm like any ordinary Sunday. Clearly, people are waiting for the announcement of the results. The comments will come afterwards.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Brussels Killing

LD0104132189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On 29 March 1989 criminal hands assassinated Tunisian national Salim al-Bahri and his colleague of Saudi nationality, Imam 'Abdallah al-Ahdal, while they were discharging their duties at the Islamic Center in Brussels. Our national and his colleague fell victim to fanaticism and extremism which we abhor under all circumstances and vigorously condemn.

In this respect, the Tunisian Government has received assurances from the Belgian authorities that they will spare no effort to find those who committed this repugnant crime and to punish them. The Belgian Government has offered the Tunisian Government, both in Brussels and in Tunis, its condolences following this treacherous assassination.

The Foreign Ministry has taken all necessary measures to return the body of the late Salim al-Bahri to Tunisia and to offer all necessary assistance to his family at this agonizing time.

Bahrain

Reportage on Visit by Britain's Howe to Manama

Arrives 1 Apr

JN0104154289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Manama, 1 Apr (WAKH)—Sir Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, and his delegation arrived in Manama from Doha this afternoon on a visit to the State of Bahrain.

During the visit Howe will hold talks on bilateral relations and ways to promote them as well as current developments in the Arabian Gulf, the Middle East issue, the Lebanese crisis, the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising], the situation in Afghanistan, current Arab affairs, and issues of common interest. Howe was received at the airport by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, the British ambassador to Bahrain, and senior officials.

Talks With Foreign Minister

JN0104191989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Manama, 1 Apr (INA)—The Bahraini side led by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs, and the British side led by Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, held a round of official talks in Manama this evening.

The talks were attended on the Bahraini side by 'Ali Ibrahim al-Mahrus, director of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry; Dr Salman al-Saffar, director of the Economic Department; and Dr 'Ali al-Dawi and Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghaffar, advisers at the Foreign Ministry. On the British side the talks were attended by the delegation of the British secretary of state and the British ambassador to Bahrain.

WAKH has learned that during the talks the two sides reviewed relations between Bahrain and Britain and also exchanged views on coopertion between the two countries in various areas. They discussed current international issues, foremost of which are the situation in the Arabian Gulf, ways to implement Resolution No 598, and bringing about a lasting peace in the region.

The discussions also centered on developments in the Middle East, particularly those pertaining to the Palestine National Council's recent resolutions, the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising], and the Lebanese crisis. Bahrain welcomed Britain's support for the convening of an international peace conference and Britain's efforts in this regard. The two countries also agreed to continue contacts and exchange views on issues of common interest.

Confers With Amir

JN0104194389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Manama, 1 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of the State of Bahrain, have received Sir Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, and the delegation accompanying him on his visit to Bahrain.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations, the current developments in both the Arab and Gulf arenas, the Middle East crisis, the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, current international issues, and issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Defense Force; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of interior affairs; the Interior Ministry under secretary; and Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, official in charge of emigration and passports affairs at the Interior Ministry; and the British ambassador to Bahrain.

Kuwait

UK Home Secretary Hurd Holds News Conference

LD0104200189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1807 GMT 1 Apr 89

[By Adnan al-Jadi]

[Text] Kuwait, April 1 (KUNA)—British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd Saturday affirmed that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, raging for the past 16 months, has "altered to some extent the understanding in the West of Palestinians and the Palestinian question."

In a press conference, held here at the British Embassy, Hurd said "As we see it, the PLO has made an important move in the kind of direction which some of us have been urging for a long time, for many years.'

He recalled his meeting with head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi seven years ago on this specific matter, noting that the new PLO policy regarding peace in the Middle East has been welcomed by top British officials, including Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe.

However, Hurd added, "We hope that this process be continued, maintained and be matched by Israel," stressing that his country believes that an international peace conference on the Middle East is a "useful means" of bringing about peace discussions.

The British secretary affirmed that "Palestinians inside and outside Palestine should be involved in these discussions. There have been (?positive) moves in recent months," stressing that the UK will do its best to help these efforts to thrive.

Asked by KUNA on the latest developments on the Pan Am jet crash last December over Scottish territory, the British ranking official said that the investigations in the "terrorist outrage" are in the hands of Scottish police, indicating that they are being helped by anti-terrorist experts of the Metropolitan Police, the police force and U.S. and West German authorities.

"We know that it was a terrorist outrage. We know the kind of device which was used for that outrage and investigations are continuing to the exact source of that device and where it was planted," he noted.

Hurd affirmed however that no breakthrough in the matter has been realized as of yet. "Investigations have made substantial progress, but not to the point that a conclusion can be announced." He neither declined nor confirmed reports linking Palestinian groups to the incident, which claimed nearly 273 lives.

On the recent efforts to rebuild Iranian-British relations and the kind of effect the Salman Rushdie affair has had on the process, the British home secretary said that his government has tried over the period of past months to restore normal links with Tehran, "unfortunately this process has received a setback," due to the death threat issued by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeyni against the author of "Satanic Verses."

He added that his country understands the hurt and insult which Muslims throughout the Islamic world and the 1.5 million Muslims living in the U.K. feel about this book, he said, refusing any threats from any country against British citizens.

He stressed that London is not responsible for the book, only for Rushdie, urging Tehran to seek some appropriate way to deal with the matter without resorting to violence.

Replying to a KUNA question on possible negotiations between the outlawed IRA and the British Government, the British secretary declined any intentions by London to talk with the organisation, which he described as a "group of terrorists." He said that a solution to that problem can only be achieved if the IRA abandons its guerilla warfare against British forces.

Speaking about his activities in Kuwait, Hurd, who arrived here last night, expressed pleasure over meeting with h.h. the amir, and also his meetings with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamadi.

Hurd said that his main meeting was with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, during which the two officials outlined four or five specific areas of discussion, but he declined to disclose the nature of the matters reviewed. He noted that both countries can develop relations in many aspects, including the war against crime, terrorism and drug trafficking.

Hurd, who already visited Bahrain and Oman, spoke of the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Britain, but said some aspects can be strengthened further.

The British secretary indicated that London and Kuwait share intelligence on combating crime, terrorism and drugs, describing such cooperation as "part of our practical friendship with Kuwait."

Foreign Minister Postpones Trip to Damascus

LD0204111189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0823 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 2 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has put off a visit to Damascus, scheduled for today, until coming Tuesday, an official Foreign Ministry source said.

Shaykh Sabah, who heads the Arab League six-man committee on Lebanon, was scheduled to leave Sunday for the Syrian capital where he was to be joined by Arab League Secretary Chedli Klibi in talks on ways to end the fighting in Lebanon.

The postponement was made in view of preoccupation of Syrian officials with some foreign official delegations visiting Damascus since the past two days, the source told KUNA.

In a statement to KUNA, Shaykh Sabah deeply regretted the exchange of indiscriminate artillery shelling between the two sectors of Beirut and the killing of many innocent vicitims and destruction of national institutions despite repreated calls by the Arab League and the U.N. Security Council.

The calls by these parties for cessation of fighting is meant to allow the Arab good offices committee enough time to play its role of sounding out the best solution for the 14-year-old Lebanese crisis.

Underscoring urgency of the time factor, Shaykh Sabah said the Lebanese problem should be given priority among Arab issues in view of the grave security situation in that country and its reflections on the Lebanese problem.

Referring to the support given the Arab committee of six by various sectors of the Lebanese people, Shaykh Sabah said this was reason for 'the committee's determination to ahead with exerting its good offices and to continue its

assignment with vigour, despite emergence of certain negative aspects which will not dissuade the committee from following up its mission.'

Qatar

UK's Geoffrey Howe Arrives in Doha 1 Apr

JN0104103089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 1 Apr (WAKH)—Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, arrived in Doha today on a short visit to Qatar within a tour of a number of regional states. The British secretary will meet with senior Qatari officials to discuss issues of common interest.

Received by Amir

JN0104115889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 1 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, received Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, and his accompanying delegation at noon today. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY, QNA, said the talks during the meeting dealt with the good relations and the existing cooperation between the two countries. The talks also dealt with developments and current issues in the Middle East, including the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, and the Afghan issue, as well as ongoing efforts to bring about permanent peace and stability in the region.

Discusses Bilateral Relations

JN0104153989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 1 Apr (WAKH)—Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari mnister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, who is currently visiting Qatar. During the meeting, they reviewed relations between the two countries as well as a number of issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by the Qatari ambassador to Britain and the British ambassador in Doha.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN0104184089 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, April 1 (GNA)—British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe underlined Britain's commitment to stability in the Arab Gulf region noting that the British armilla patrol would stay in the Gulf as long as there was a job to do.

In a statement before his departure the British foreign secretary said that talks with H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani covered wide ranging topics including regional and international issues especially Afghanistan, Iran-Iraq ceasefire and prospects for peace in the Middle East.

He was seen off by the Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, the Ambassador of Qatar to Britain Sharidah Sa'd Jubran al-Ka'abi and the British Ambassador in Doha Patrick M. Nixon.

Saudi Arabia

SPA: Fahd Returns After Visit to Iraq, Egypt

LD3103220489 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 31 March 1989, SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, returned with God's care to Riyadh at 2315 (local) tonight following his official visits to Iraq and Egypt. [passage omitted]

Goulding Visits UN Observers in Central Sector

JN0104110589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—Marrack Goulding, assistant UN secretary general, yesterday visited the UN observers in the central sector. The UN official was accompanied, during the visit, by Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG]. Goulding was briefed on the work of the UNIIMOG in this sector.

In a statement to INA, Goulding expressed his thanks for Iraq's cooperation with the UNIIMOG and its facilities for the UN observers. He also expressed his hope that peace would prevail between Iraq and Iran. Marrack Goulding arrived in Baghdad from Tehran on Thursday on a 4-day visit to Iraq.

Holds Baghdad News Conference

JN0204132789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 2 Apr 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (WAKH)—A senior UN official voiced here today the UN's concern over the increasing number of the instances of exchanging fire between Iraq and Iran during the past few months.

At a predeparture news conference held here at noon today, UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding said that the two countries exchanged fire eight times on the border during the period extending from 20 August [1988] when the cease-fire went into effect to the end of February.

Goulding earlier visited Iran before his arrival in Baghdad on Thursday [30 March] in a tour designed to enable him to inspect the situation of the UN observers who are deployed on both sides of the border extending along 1,180 km.

Goulding who is visiting the region for the second time in 4 months said that the recent cease-fire violations have expanded and assumed durations of time longer than the cease-fire violations witnessed during the first months after the cease-fire went into effect.

Goulding added that this is a source of concern to the United Nations and indicated that the two countries exchanged fire four times during the past 2 months.

In reply to questions posed by correspondents, the UN official said at the news conference which he held at the headquarters of the UN observers that the two countries lodged "1,960" complaints on cease-fire violations, 25 percent of which were confirmed by the UN observers. As for the remaining complaints, they were simple and minor, as Goulding put it.

Goulding pointed out that the objectives of his current visits to Iran and Iraq were to hold talks with General Slavko Jovic, commander in chief of the UN observers, on the work of these observers, to hold talks with the officials of the two countries on the border cease-fire violations, and to discuss with Iranian officials the legal status of the presence of UN observers [on Iranian territory].

Goulding said that Iran flooded the border areas in the southern sector and added that the UN secretary general referred to this in the report which he submitted to the UN Security Council and in which he expressed his concern over the cease-fire violations and the possibility of a future escalation of these violations.

The UN official had held a lengthy meeting with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning. During the meeting, they discussed the current situation on the borders and the possible continued contribution of the UN observers to maintaining the cease-fire status between the two countries.

Goulding added that the UN is continuing its endeavors to hold the first meeting of the mixed Iraqi-Iranian Military Committee at the earliest possible opportunity.

The UN official indicated that the discussions with the two sides are continuing on fixing a venue for the first committee meeting which was formed in response to a proposal submitted by the UN secretary general. UN observer sources earlier said that Iran refused to take part in the meeting which was scheduled to be held in February in protest against the venue chosen which it views as Iranian territory.

Goulding stressed that his mission is to urge Iran to put an end to the cease-fire violations and to ask the Iraqi side to exercise self-restraint and avoid any action that would exacerbate the situation.

The UN official declined to give any figures on the number of casualties sustained by the fire-exchange incidents between the two countries. He said: I do not have specific figures. Besides, he affirmed that the violations were committed by the two sides.

Goulding also declined to answer any questions on the ongoing Iraq-Iran negotiations which seek the conclusion of a peace agreement and said: This is the domain of my colleague Jan Eliasson.

INA Notes News Conference

JN0204192589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)— UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding has accused Iran of violating the cease-fire. During a news conference he held at the headquarters of the international observers' team

charged with supervising the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, Goulding said that during his recent visit to Tehran he informed the Iranian side of the need to stop its violations of the cease-fire.

Goulding also said that during his visit to Baghdad he urged the Iraqi side to exercise self-restraint toward the Iranian cease-fire violations and to avoid any activities that might undermine the cease-fire.

At his news conference, Goulding noted that his visits to Iraq and Iran are aimed at holding talks with Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander in chief of the UN observer force along the confrontation lines between the two countries, discussing with Iraqi and Iranian officials the situation on the southern sector, and talking with the Iranian side about the legal status of the observer team in Iran.

The UN official voiced his gratitude for the hospitality accorded to him during his visit to Iraq and said that he visited the central sector on the Iraqi side to inspect the UN forces and their activities.

Goulding said he held successful talks with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and with the Iraqi chief of staff. He said the observer team is carrying out its duties as best as can be expected.

On behalf of the UN secretary gerenal, Goulding expressed his profound gratitude to Iraq for its exemplary cooperation to facilitate the task of the UN forces. While answering reporters' questions, Goulding said that Iran has flooded Iraqi areas in the southern sector .

The news conference was attended by General Slavko Jovic and a large number of Iraqi, Arab, and foreign reporters.

UN's Eliasson Concludes Talks With Delegation

JN0104120189 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] United Nations, April 1, INA —Personal representative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar concluded a two-day round of discussions with an Iraqi delegation on preparations for new round of talks at ministeral level aimed at implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a negotiated settlement of all aspects of the Iran-Iraq conflict. Mr. Eliasson is scheduled to meet with an Iranian counterpart delegation next week.

UN Urged To End Iranian Cease-Fire Violations

JN0204123689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has called on the UN General Secretariat to put an end to the serious cease-fire violations committed by Iran.

Tariq 'Aziz informed UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding during a meeting held with him and the delegation accompanying him here today that for months Iran has been violating the cease-fire on a continuous basis.

The UN official affirmed that Iraq will continue to cooperate with the UN observers, out of its appreciation of the UN role and its sincere desire to achieve peace. During the meeting, Goulding expressed his great appreciation of Iraq's cooperation with the UN observers and of the facilities being provided by the Iraqi authorities to these observers to enable them to perform their mission successfully.

The meeting was attended by Wisam al-Zahawi, under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, and a number of officials.

INA: Papers View U.S.-Israeli 'Campaign'

JN0304101789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi papers today said that the American media organs are launching a campaign that is secretly engineered by the Zionist organ, the Mosad, with regard to the allegations on the Iraqi nuclear threat. The objective of this campaign is to undermine Iraq's reputation and obstruct peace negotiations with Iran. This came in editorials published in AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, and AL-QADISIYAH.

AL-THAWRAH says: The anti-Iraq campaign is based on false information intentionally propagated by he Israeli intelligence organs. The purpose of this is to cover the Zionist crimes in the occupied territory and serve the intransigent Iranian stand on the negotiations and its evasion of peace commitments. This campaign is also directed against Arab scientific progress.

AL-THAWRAH, the organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, affirms that Iraq is aware of the purpose of the threats and suspect hostile campaigns. Iraq also knows full well the central objectives of this campaign. Iraq will continue its victorious march without hesitation or fear from threats and campaigns.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Tel Aviv and its ally, Tehran, are in the same trench. They are partners in the Irangate scandal as well as in arms and security cooperation. They are also in the same trench of military, political, and intellectual defeat inflicted on them by the Arab nation through the victory of Iraq and the Palestinian national will in the intifadah [uprising].

AL-THAWRAH affirms that Tel Aviv and Tehran are trying to ignore the comprehensive world denunciation of their stands that are hostile to peace, mankind, and international law. The Iraqi paper adds that Zionism is motivating the American media organs to propagate,

again, the claims of the dangers of the Iraqi nuclear program to affect the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations and to serve the Iranian stand evading peace commitments.

AL-THAWRAH says that Iran rejects unconditional resumption of the negotiations under shakeable pretexts that could not stand in the international organization or in the face of Iraq's firm and clear peaceful trend based on international laws and norms.

AL-THAWRAH adds that there is another reason for the Zionist campaign; namely, to cover Israel's resumption of arms supplies to Iran in exchange for the Iranian Jews' immigration to the Zionist entity.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the timing of the Zionist campaigns against Iraq have coincided with the comprehensive Iraqi victory celebrated by the Arab nation and the peaceloving international organizations to belittle this victory and encroach on Iraq's reputation. However, the Iraqi paper adds, these campaigns were defeated as happened in the Paris conference on chemical weapons. AL-THAWRAH adds that the American media organs involved in this desperate campaign are intentionally ignoring Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and its refraining from signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. AL-THAWRAH affirms that the Zionist threats cannot frighten the Arab nation or put psychological pressure on Iraq, which is a nation of victory, peace, and construction.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the Zionist entity is facing a historical dilemma affecting its structure and theory of security. This dilemma is shaking the ruling racist thinking. AL-THAWRAH adds that the Zionist impasse reached the present situation because of Arab sacrifices, Iraq's splendid and comprehensive victory over the Iranian enemy, and the continous and brave intifadah of the Palestinian people.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that since they established their entity after usurping Palestine, the Zionists could not avoid living under the atmosphere of war, aggression, and tension. They consider Iraq a target in their aggressive schemes.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the Zionist entity always searches for cheap and hackneyed material to lambaste Iraq. When the clamor about Iraq manufacturing biological weapons cooled down, the Zionist entity fabricated a new clamor on the possibility that Iraq is building a new nuclear reactor or manufacturing nuclear warheads.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that those who harbor hatred toward Iraq believed this clamor and began to repeat it. AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the objective of the fabricated clamor is to divert the attention from the inhumane crimes against the Palestinian intifadah, to tarnish Iraq's international reputation, curb its prominent position achieved after its victory over the Iranian aggressors, and to affect the atmosphere of the Iraq-Iran negotiations.

AL-JUMHURIYAH warns that Iraq can and is determined to respond if it is exposed to any harm. Iraq will respond with all the methods and effective means it possesses. The Iraqi paper adds: The Zionists should realize that Iraq in 1989 is different from Iraq in June 1981 when they struck at the nuclear reactor built for peaceful purposes.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that any aggressive act they will embark on regardless of its kind, size, or nature will be confronted with an appropriate Iraqi response. And their fate will be like that of their allies in Iran. AL-QADISIYAH says that the Zionists will inevitably realize that they are entertaining a great illusion. The bad time has gone.

Israel Threatens To Destroy Iraqi Reactor 'Again'

JN0104115189 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 30 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Paris—Western sources have told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Israel is watching with great concern and consternation Iraq's efforts to rebuild and reactivate the nuclear reactor which the Israeli planes destroyed 8 years ago. The French [as published] sources explained that Israel informed France that it has information confirming that Iraq started to rebuild its nuclear reactor only a few months after its destruction and that several Western states contributed toward rebuilding the reactor despite their realization that reactivating the reactor constitutes a serious and real threat to Israel's safety and security.

The sources noted that an Israeli memorandum to this effect indicated that Israel cannot accept this situation and might find itself compelled to destroy the reactor again at the appropriate time and before it begins the prodcution stage.

The French sources said the Israeli Government made extensive secret contacts with a number of states, including the United States, and gave them the information available to it concerning the rebuilding of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, asserting it will not wait long before destroying this reactor once again.

Shamir Briefs Ministers on Plan's 'Main Points'
TA0204161089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Today's cabinet session, held 1 day before Prime Minister Shamir leaves for Washington, lasted 4 hours; the political issue was not raised at all. The cabinet merely approved the prime minister's visit. It appears that the ministers have grown used to the idea that they will have to hear about Shamir's plan from the media after his meeting with Bush. After the meeting, Shamir reported to Ministers Arens, Peres, and Rabin on the main points of his plan. After the meeting, Minister Peres did not volunteer information on Shamir's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Peres] There was an exchange of views between us. That is all I have to say. [end recording]

The prime minister reported to the forum of 4 for 1 hour on the plans he is taking to the United States. He did not provide them with a complete presentation of the plan, but only outlined its general principles. Coming out of the meeting, the Alignment ministers continued to believe that there should have been a political discussion before Shamir's departure.

[Begin recording] [Deputy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Navon] The truth is that I do not expect big surprises, but I believe Shamir should have presented the plan to the Inner Cabinet and that a debate should have been held. He could have introduced changes or remained firm in his positions, but I believe it would have aired things out, and was important to do so.

[Gutman] Was the report to the Peres-Rabin forum not enough?

[Navon] In my view, no. [end recording]

Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav, on the other hand, does not believe there is anything wrong, in that he and his colleagues do not know what the Israeli position that will be presented to the Americans is. Qatzav believes that a political debate before Shamir's trip could be damaging.

[Begin recording] [Qatzav] Ministers can make proposals. The prime minister is acting within the government's basic guidelines, and as far as I know, he informed the vice prime minister and the defense and foreign ministers of the main principles he is to present to the Americans. There is no plan that calls for a Cabinet debate, and in fact a debate in the Cabinet might not be useful. [end recording]

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein is leaving for Washington tonight. In his meetings with U.S. State Department officials, he will present the main principles of Shamir's plan before the prime minister's visit, which begins on Tuesday.

Arad Views Chances for 'Successful' Shamir Visit
TA0304092289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with Moshe Arad, ambassador to the United States, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Savir—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Good morning, sir.

[Arad] Good morning.

[Friedman] The Americans expect Yitzhaq Shamir to present them with a new, daring plan. It seems, however, that instead of a plan, what Shamir intends to bring are at best ideas, thoughts, and meditations, all of which are related to the good old autonomy concept, instead of the permanent settlement which the Americans want. In their opinion, he should be guided by the principle of territories for peace. Do you agree that if this is the situation, Shamir's mission is doomed to failure?

[Arad] I do not. It seems to me that President Bush and his administration are interested in taking action in cooperation with the prime minister and the Israeli Government. Therefore, when he arrives in Washington, Mr Shamir will be met by an administration and a President who, first of all, wish to find ways to promote the peace process through cooperation with Israel. I also believe that the survey published in yesterday's NEW YORK TIMES—according to which 82 percent of the Israeli population object to negotiations with the PLO, while 68 percent believe that today's Arabs would welcome another holocaust, were it possible—clearly reinforces the prime minister's position on the eve of his visit to Washington.

[Savir] The poll may indeed reflect the national trends in Israel, but the United States itself is conducting negotiations with the PLO.

[Arad] The United States is conducting contacts with the PLO. I suggest that we exercise the utmost caution when using these terms. To the best of my knowledge, there are no negotiations between the United States and the PLO; there are contacts. I do not expect the prime minister to encounter any U.S. demand for negotiations with the PLO.

[Friedman] I refer you to the remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State Baker when Foreign Minister Arens was in the United States to prepare Shamir's tour. Arens [as heard] said that the United States does not rule out the possibility of direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO, if the lower-level talks fail. This appears to be

an American declaration of intention. They may expect Shamir to address himself to this issue, and they may be disappointed if Shamir gives an unequivocally negative reply.

[Arad] No. I think they are familiar with the Israeli stance regarding both negotiations with the PLO—which is totally absent from our diplomatic terminology—and our position on the establishment of a Palestinian state which, I stress, is not part of U.S. policy. In view of this, I believe that the discussions during the prime minister's visit will focus on the prime minister's proposal to hold elections, on Israel's ideas concerning an interim arrangement, and on the practical ways to promote the process in the direction of an interim settlement.

I believe the agenda will include neither negotiations with the PLO nor negotiations that will eventually present us with the option of a Palestinian state, but will be based on a pragmatic approach, deriving from the new administration's desire to promote the process, even if this may be done through very cautious steps.

[Friedman] You have mentioned the issue of an international conference. Yesterday's reports cited senior U.S. sources saying that the United States may be moving toward the adoption of this concept, which it has opposed so far—perhaps as soon as in 6 months, according to some sources.

[Arad] I have read and seen these reports, which are attributed to U.S. sources. I am convinced this is not the U.S. policy at this stage. I cannot rule out the possibility that this will happen in the future, but if the question is whether from an operative point of view the administration's present policy is to promote the option of an international conference, the answer is negative. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] The last question, Ambassador Arad: There are some who define Shamir's tour as the most important visit of any Israeli prime minister in the recent years. If Shamir and his hosts do not reach an understanding, what do you think will happen?

[Arad] I do not wish to deal with hypothetical situations. To the best of my knowledge and on the basis of my talks with the heads of this administration, including the secretary of state and other figures at the National Security Council, I believe there is a genuine desire to promote the process through cooperation and joint efforts with Israel and with the prime minister. Therefore, I suggest we do not deal with speculations as to what will happen if the visit does not succeed. The assessments I have indicate that the chances the prime minister's visit here will be successful are very good.

[Friedman] Ambassador Arad, thank you very much.

[Arad] Thank you very much.

Ben-Aharon: No PLO Talks Even With U.S.

TA0304123889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] With only a few hours to Prime Minister's Shamir departure for the United States, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, said Shamir will not countenance negotiations with the PLO, not even on an unofficial basis, not even with American mediation. Ben-Aharon told reporter Jack Katzenell that Shamir would not be taking blueprints for a peace plan to the United States, but would be seeking a forum including the Palestinians which propel the peace process forward.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] Nothing can be ruled out where we are considering various measures to show that it is up to the Palestinian Arabs to determine their situation for themselves, they and their leaders. And that, of course, can include the release of people who are imprisoned for participation in various violations of the law.

[Katzenell] Supposing the Americans say: We will try to persuade Yasir 'Arafat to stop throwing Molotov cocktails in the territories. Will the prime minister say: I am not interested; I do not talk to these people; do not mediate for me; or will he somehow give an unofficial blessing to a measure of this kind?

[Ben-Aharon] I want to make clear this question pertaining to the PLO. We consider the PLO as anathema. It is the very opposite of peace. We will have no dealings with the PLO, direct or indirect. We will not countenance the idea of the establishment of a Palestinian state, a PLO state in the territories, and we will not permit any situation to evolve whereby we would be negotiating indirectly with the PLO through the United States. We have conveyed this message loud and clear to the American Administration. If the United States will try to convey messages to Mr 'Arafat and his colleagues with regard to the violence in the territories, it is simply irrelevant. [end recording]

Mitzna' on Effect of Reduced Army Presence

TA2903103389 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 29 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Steve Leibowitz]

[Excerpt] Giv'at Ze'ev—[Passage omitted] Before joining Shamir for lunch in Giv'at Ze'ev yesterday, Army commander 'Amram Mitzna' said troops were staying out of Arab villages under a new policy to avoid confrontation with Palestinians. Mizna' said the new policy had proved itself by reducing casualties in the West Bank in recent weeks, compared with the early months of the intifadah [uprising]. "We have really been going less and less into villages, and I think it has worked," he said. Other security sources said Palestinian activists were

increasingly taking control of the West Bank countryside because the army lacked the forces to carry out the widespread raids of earlier months.

They said troops effectively controlled only the major towns and highways, with Palestinian popular committees and striking forces "running as many as 150 remote villages." In strike-force controlled Salfit, for example, the Israeli civil administration has halted all public services and removed the village switchboard. The paucity of reserve forces, partially due to a promise by Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to cut reserve army duty from 62 to 44 days, has hampered the army's ability to track down wanted Palestinian fugitives living in caves and hills, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Car Firebombed in Qalqilyah

TA2803210989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] A firebomb was thrown at an Israeli vehicle in Qalqilyah a short time ago, but nobody was hurt. Our correspondent Arye Gus adds that telephone lines were sabotaged in several Jewish settlements in Samaria this evening.

Bus Gutted in Gaza

TA2903094489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] An Israeli bus was set on fire on Al-Nasir Street in Gaza this morning. It was totally gutted although no one was hurt. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the bus was supposed to transport laborers to Israel.

Homes of 'Terrorists' Destroyed

TA3003213189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The Israel Defense Forces [IDF] destroyed four houses in the Gaza Strip today. The IDF also demolished one room out of three in a fifth house. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports that the houses that were torn down belonged to the families of terrorists accused of membership in a hostile organization, throwing firebombs, and attacks on Israelis. The homes belonging to the families of Majdi Ahmad Mustafa, aged 20; his cousin Ahdal Ahmad Mustafa, aged 22; and Suhayl Isma'il Bin 'Awd Baqa, aged 22, were destroyed.

The three had been accused of attempting to murder two boys near Ramat Hasharon, throwing firebombs at the home of the head of the Bani Suhaylah local council, and organizing hostile activities.

The home of Hamdani Abu Qabus, aged 20, was also destroyed while only one room out of three was demolished in the house of his cousin Isma'il Abu Qabus, aged 22. The two were accused of preparing to commit terrorist acts, and of throwing firebombs which, however, caused no casualties.

Arab Resident Dies of Wounds

TA0104092389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] This morning an Arab resident of Hebron died in a Jerusalem hospital of wounds he sustained during the Land Day events 2 days ago. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the police are investigating claims of Arab residents alleging that the man was shot by an Israeli resident.

This morning a curfew was imposed on the village of Battir. All village youths were summoned for interrogation.

The curfews imposed on Tulkarm and the refugee camps in its vicinity were lifted this morning.

Arab Killed, 2 Wounded

TA0104153489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] A 17-year-old youth from the village of Al-'Ayzariyah near Jerusalem, who was trying to block the road leading to Ma'ale Adummim, was shot dead by Israeli soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that masked youngsters blocked the road and attacked soldiers with stones, slightly wounding two of them in the head. According to initial reports, one of the commanders was compelled to open fire at the assailants, seriously wounding one of them. The young man, Akram Mustafa al-Yasini, later died at Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. The Israeli army clamped a curfew on Al-'Ayzariyah.

One person was reportedly wounded in clashes with Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem, and another person was wounded in the village of Awsarin in the Nabulus District.

It was reported earlier that an Arab inhabitant of Hebron who was wounded during incidents on Land Day 2 days ago, apparently by shots fired by Israeli civilians, died in a Jerusalem hospital.

Further on 1 Apr Incidents

TA0204105789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Apr 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] A Palestinian was killed yesterday at Al-'Azariyah, southeast of Jerusalem, and 23 others were reported wounded in clashes with troops over the weekend in the territories. Tension in the areas remained high after heavy violence during last week's Land Day anniversary. [passage omitted]

In other incidents yesterday, Palestinians said a truck-driver from Nabulus was hurt when his truck was stoned by settlers and its windshield was smashed near the settlement of Shave Shomron.

In clashes with troops, Palestinians reported seven persons wounded in Bethlehem, and four wounded at the neighboring Ayda refugee camp. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] confirmed two wounded in Bethlehem.

A 13-year-old boy was wounded in the back at Awsarin, south of Nabulus, and a 17-year-old was wounded at Al-Fandaqumiyah, north of Nabulus. Palestinians said a girl was wounded at the Qalandiyah refugee camp, north of Jerusalem; four persons were wounded at Qusrah, near Nabulus; and a 41-year-old man at the Janin refugee camp. The IDF said the man was injured by a rubber bullet.

In Nabulus, four persons were hospitalized with injuries from beatings, and a 14-year-old girl was treated Friday for a broken hand.

In other clashes Friday, a 13-year-old boy was wounded in the back at the Al-Fari'ah refugee camp, east of Nabulus; a 13-year-old and an 18-year-old were wounded at 'Aqqabah near Janin; and a 23-year-old was wounded at Ramin, near Tulkarm.

A curfew was imposed yesterday on Battir, southwest of Jerusalem, as security forces made arrests following persistent stone-throwing attacks on trains passing the village. Qabatiyah and Salfit remained under curfew. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinians reported that undercover security men posing as masked youths arrested several stone-throwers in downtown Gaza. After youths stoned an army jeep, soldiers called for help, and four masked men arrived in a white Peugeot. They joined the stone-throwers, but were later seen arresting several of them.

A curfew remained in force on most of the Gaza Strip refugee camps, after a general curfew on the area was lifted on Friday. The curfew was imposed on Land Day last Thursday. The Gaza neighbourhood of Al-Shaykh and the Al-Shati' refugee camp have been under curfew for over two weeks.

In clashes yesterday, four persons were reported wounded by metal rubber bullets. [as published]

'Terrorist Squad' Uncovered

TA0204055789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 02 Apr 89

[Text] The Shin Bet and wardens from Gaza prison have uncovered a terrorist squad that was planning operations against the security forces in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that the seizure of a letter among the inmates led to the discovery of a popular committee operating in the Gaza Strip.

4 Soldiers Charged in Death

TA0204122389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Apr 89 p 8

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] The Southern Command military prosecution has decided to charge two officers and two soldiers with beating Iyad 'Aql, 18, from the Al-Burayj refugee camp.

'Aql, who died several hours later in Al-Shifa' hospital, was beaten on February 8, 1988, and was the first Palestinian to die from a beating by soldiers during the uprising.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said the four would be accused of aggravated assault. The prosecution decided not to hold them responsible for the death of Al 'Aql, because there was no clear causal-judicial connection between the beatings and the death. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 2 April in a report by 'Imanu'el Rosen and Avino'am Bar-Yosef on pages one and two adds: "One of the officers is a battalion commander holding the rank of major, and is the highest ranking officer to be court martialed since the outbreak of the uprising. The other officer is a company commander, and all four soldiers belong to the Giv'ati Brigade. They have since ended their service and are now civilians."]

Curfew Imposed on Tulkarm

TA0204151689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] The city of Tulkarm was put under curfew today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew was imposed to prevent a nationalist demonstration during the funeral of the deputy mayor, who died of a disease this morning.

4 Wounded in 2 Apr Incidents

TA0204195589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] The Al-Mughazi refugee camp in Gaza was put under curfew this evening. Our correspondent Roni Sofer says that this evening the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] reported four people wounded by plastic bullets fired during disturbances. Two 17-year-olds were shot in the Al-Burayj refugee camp, a 17-year-old was shot during disturbances in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp, and an 18-year-old was shot in the Jabalyah refugee camp. All of the wounded youths were transferred to Ma'amadani Hospital in fair condition.

The Faris market in Gaza was closed today after yesterday's incident in which two soldiers were attacked with stones and managed to extricate themselves by shooting into the air. An IDF force closed down shops of local merchants who wanted to open for business. A curfew is

also in effect this evening in the Jabalyah and Al-Nusayrat refugee camps, five neighborhoods in Rafah, and the Al-Shaykh Radwan and Al-Mashahirah neighborhoods in Gaza.

Finance Minister Briefs Cabinet on IMF Talks

JN0104203489 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a session this evening under the prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i.

The council was briefed by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr Marwan al-Qasim, on the mission of the Arab League's six-man committee on Lebanon, of which he is a member.

The ministers also heard a report by the finance minister, Dr Hanna 'Awdah, on the outcome of meetings with representatives of the International Monetary Fund who are now in Amman.

Dr 'Awdah told the council that the meetings were being conducted in a positive atmosphere and pointed out that the measures concerning an austerity program and adjusting the balance of payment, requested by the IMF, had been applied by Jordan since late last year.

He said that during the meetings with the IMF representatives, no mention was made of the exchange rate of the dinar or the devaluating [of] the currency or lifting the government's subsidies on basic commodities.

The minister reaffirmed that the government will continue to subsidize these commodities and that the dinar will maintain its current rate.

The cabinet also approved a program for cultural and scientific cooperation between Jordan and Egypt for the next 3 years.

'Arafat Welcomed as Palestine President

JN0204191489 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah, replying to a question put to him by REUTER about Jordan's reaction to the naming of Yasir 'Arafat as Palestine's president, said Jordan welcomes the decision made by the PLO Central Council in light of Jordan's known position of supporting and backing the PLO.

Papers, Radio Highlight Land Day Anniversary

JN3003114889 [Editorial report]

The three main Jordanian Arabic dailies AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, and SAWT AL-SHA'B, published in Amman on 30 March give frontpage prominence to reports on intifadah [uprising] activities on the occasion of Land Day. Under red banner headlines, AL-RA'Y's main headline reads: "Day of the Land, Palestine, and Intifadah." Also in red, AL-DUSTUR's main headline reads: "Palestine Today Marks Land Day" and SAWT AL-SHA'B's reads: "General Strike Today Throughout Palestine."

The papers also devote their editorials to comment on Land Day. AL-DUSTUR describes Land Day as "a historic testimony to the great sacrifices over generations in defense of the Arabism of this land against one of the most terrible foreign invasions against any territories." The paper adds: "Land Day, celebrated today by all the sons of the Arab nation, will continue to be a source of pride for all of us, and a source of inspiration to the sons of this nation." In their editorials, AL-RA'Y and SAWT AL-SHA'B highlight Jordan's support for the Palestinian cause. AL-RA'Y says: "It is natural today for Jordan to mark the anniversary of the Land Day martyrs. It always commemorates the heroes who defend the Arab land."

The three papers also report that a speech rally marking the occasion will be held at the Professional Unions Complex in Amman this evening. All papers devote several inside pages to reports and articles on the significance and history of Land Day.

Two papers carry interviews with Jordanian and Palestinian figures who salute the intifadah and call for supporting it. Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, Palestine National Council Speaker, tells AL-RA'Y: "The blessed intifadah erupted to liberate the land and to tell the world that the land of Palestine cannot be sold, bought, or conceded by anyone."

Amman Domestic Service in Arabic carried normal programming interspersed with patriotic songs about Palestine.

U.S. Envoy's Residence Receives 'Direct Hit'

NC0204123189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] The areas of Al-Hadath, B'abda, Al-Hazimiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, the vicinity of Al-Ashrafiyah, the upper Al-Matn coast, and the Kasrawan coast are still under violent indiscriminate bombardment from Syrian positions in the mountain area and West Beirut. We have been informed that the residence of the U.S. ambassador in Al-Yarzah received a direct hit at noon today.

'Sources' Say French Hostages May Be Freed Soon

LD0204132289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1159 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Paris, April 2 (KUNA)—The last two French hostages in Lebanon, Jacqueline Valente and her daughter Sophie, might soon be released after 17 months of captivity by the "Abu Nidal" group, it was reported here Sunday.

The "JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE" weekly quoted Middle Eastern sources as saying the Abu Nidal group is ready to free Valente and a Belgian citizen who was accompanying her in a boat when they were kidnapped across from the Israeli coast.

The paper urged the French Government to profit from this "overture" by the Abu Nidal group before it changes its intentions.

The Palestinian group has accused Valente and her company of spying for Israel when they hijacked the boat in October 1987.

Two daughters of Valente were released after a year of captivity, but the third was born after the kidnapping of her mother.

Group Claims Killing Clerics in Brussels

NC3103155389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The Jund al-Haqq Organization in Beirut today claimed responsibility for the assassination of two Islamic clerics in Brussels 2 days ago. In a typewritten statement in Arabic, the group said that it had carried out God's ruling against the director of the Islamic Cultural Center in Belgium, Saudi Wahhabi Imam 'Abdallah al-Ahdal, and the official in charge of the library in the center, Tunisian national Salim al-Buhayri. The group accused both men of being traitors and enemies of God and Islam, and of having carried out subversive activities against Islam through their association with the Mosad, with the blessing of the Wahhabi clan.

The statement warned the Saudi leaders against persisting in their line, and assailed what it called the handful who are preaching in the Hejaz in support of the Israeli era and in its favor against our mujahidin.

The Mecca-based League of the Islamic World said that Iranians had threatened to kill Imam 'Abdallah al-Ahdal, the spiritual leader of Muslims in Belgium.

Junblatt Meets With Al-Huss in Beirut 30 Mar

NC3003210589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader, and Ghazi al-'Aridi, PSP Political Bureau member, visited Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this evening and reviewed developments.

Following the meeting, Junblatt said: We stand together as one front in the face of the imperial [hamayuniyah] schemes surrounding Lebanon. He added: We appreciate Dr al-Huss' stand regarding hegemony and the military dictatorship and his insistence on Lebanon's Arabism.

Junblatt added: If in the past, statements the media published were interpreted by some as slanderous or insulting, I think that the destiny of the homeland and the Arab nation has now turned this page: This is what really matters.

Junblatt asserted that he and Dr al-Huss fully understand each other. He said: What we require from Dr al-Huss is that he take care of himself because we respect him and care for him.

Al-Huss Broadcasts Appeal to Eastern Area

NC0204200889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Apr 89

["Appeal" by "Prime Minister" Dr Salim al-Huss to citizens in the eastern area on 2 April—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Brother citizen in the eastern area. I always refused to have a combat line separate us. Neither I nor you should fight each other. You might have heard me one day saying that if a brother is destined to kill his brother, then there is no credit for any of us to be the brother's killer. Does a brother become a victor if he kills his brother? My heart drips with blood, my brother in the eastern area, when I hear about the shells which fall above your head and kill, destroy, and burn. I am certain that your heart becomes filled with grief when we and every peaceful citizen here become the target of those shells of killing, arson, and destruction.

Like every citizen, you are surrounded by a misleading and destructive media belt. The spiteful radios deafen the ears and the televisions blind the eyes. The venom they spit with their lies and half truths are worse than pouring oil on fire. They portray me as your enemy and oppressor and claim that I lie in wait to kill you. They do

not tell you about the harm, injustice, deprivation, and danger of death that I and every innocent citizen here are exposed to at the hands of those who misguide you and those who support them. [passage omitted]

They told you that the privileges of the minority are a guarantee. After years of devastating national tribulations, you are asked today to disclose the results of these privileges. They certainly did not guarantee the stability of Lebanon as a society, homeland, or state. They did not guarantee the safety, right, or dignity of the citizens, nor did they provide any benefits or safety to the faction enjoying these privileges. Indeed, they had little effect even on those who benefit from them, those arrogant war professionals who do not reveal their identity because peace will condemn them and perhaps (?convict) them. [passage omitted]

Brother citizen in the eastern area. You may perhaps see me as the problem and see in my presence a renewal of it. You undoubtedly know that your brother in the western area now sees General 'Awn as the problem and sees in his presence the renewal of it. I do not deny you the right to see in my name whatever you want and to see in my presence whatever you want to see. In my conduct, I am eager to respect the presence of others and their views. I do not follow the course of the one who classifies the people into supporters who openly declare their position and into supporters who, according to him, do not dare express their position. Such a person acts on the basis of this illusion as if it were he alone, and nobody else, who could be the decision-maker.

The general does not have the exclusive right to draw up a plan to impose his military control over areas which, basically, do not acknowledge his legitimacy. None of us has the right to forget that the government is a transitional one. It is a bridge between two eras, and its main task is to hand over power to a new regime on the basis of a conciliatory formula that will make the handover of rule to a new president and a new government a step toward relaxation and stability. Neither I, as the head of a legitimate government, nor the general, regardless of whatever capacity he claims for himself, has the right to turn the transitional government into a presidential era or to quasi-presidential term. [passage omitted]

If I and General 'Awn have become two faces of the same problem, then it is our duty to save our homeland and people from this problem, which is manifested in [word indistinct] division and which threatens the country's continued existence. Lebanon is dearer than all and any of us. It is dearer than those who run after their selfish lusts. Everything becomes cheap for the sake of Lebanon's safety.

In conclusion, I appeal to everyone who has his finger on a gun or rifle to return to his senses, have mercy on the people and his kinsmen, and cease fire immediately. I appeal to your national and human conscience to stop this massacre.

Al-Khatib Orders Court-Martial of 'Awn

NC3103064989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The Army Command in Beirut has issued an order referring General Michel 'Awn to a courts martial. The order stresses that all those whom the investigation shows to have provoked or been partners in or even involved in the crimes with which he is being charged will be pursued.

The order says: Staff Major General Sami al-Khatib, the acting Army commander, invoked the provisions of the National Defense Law, particularly Article 49, as the basis for referring Gen 'Awn to a courts martial. The order accuses Gen 'Awn of usurping the post of prime minister and several other ministerial posts and of taking over the Army Command contrary to Article 49 of the National Defense Law. He is also carrying out political, military, and media activities which have caused differences among the citizens and negatively affected the work of the official Lebanese departments on the local, Arab, and international levels. He is also dealing with the Israeli enemy by cooperating with the brother of agent Antoine Lahd. He is meeting with him to study ways for cooperation and coordination between the Lahd army and what it represents, on the one hand, and the Lebanese Army battalion stationed in the Jazzin area, on the other.

The order stresses that all those whom the investigation will show to have provoked, to have been partners in, or to have been involved in the said crimes will be pursued.

'Awn Seeks Support From Major Powers

NC3103101689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has given the ambassadors of France, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and Britain written messages for the governments of these countries. The messages urge them to support the legitimate government and work for ousting the Syrian occupation army from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The French ambassador confirmed that Gen 'Awn had conveyed to him a request to this effect and noted that he will not anticipate his government's response to the legitimate government's demand regarding the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon. Answering a question, he said all parts of the area in which he lives have come under shelling and that the civilian population, hospitals, and churches have been the target of this bombardment. Asked if he believes that it is time that the Lebanese issue was discussed at the UN Security Council, he said: Lebanon has raised its problem at the Security Coucil several times, and France has always supported Lebanon's position.

For his part, the Chinese ambassador said: Gen 'Awn briefed me on the latest developments. China sympathizes with the Lebanese people's suffering and we sincerely urge all parties to halt military actions and exericse self-restraint. We support and back the Arab League committee.

'Awn 'Plan' to Abduct U.S. Nationals Described

NC0204125389 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, deputy leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has declared that the military government plans to bring pressure to bear on the United States by kidnapping some of its nationals and putting the blame on Syria.

Lt Col Fayyad disclosed this in an interview with the Voice of the People. He affirmed that the party's organs intercepted a telephone conversation with Brigadier General Edgar Ma'luf during which Ma'luf said that the only way to change the U.S. position toward Syria is by kidnapping three or four Americans.

Fayyad noted that the military escalation cannot continue at its present rate. Rather, there will be changes in the fronts and combat lines. He emphasized that the nationalist forces are confident and will teach General 'Awn a lesson similar to the one they taught him in western Al-Shahhar. He added: We must destroy Michel 'Awn's plan. We must hasten to accomplish this target in order to alleviate the sufferings of the masses and the homeland.

Fayyad went on to say: We must engage in dialogue again, but first they must give up the sectarian plan and overthrow its instrument, the military establishment. We do not seek to escalate the fighting or storm the fronts. We want the Arab League committee to succeed in its efforts and find a solution to the problem. We do not want to go back to fighting. [passage omitted]

'Awn 'Source' Reacts to Cease-Fire Calls

NC0204135889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpts] A source close to Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has reacted to regional and international calls for implementing a cease-fire, for lifting the naval blockade, and for opening a dialogue among the Lebanese by saying:

We thank those who have taken a position and who have shown understanding of the government's position concerning the need to implement the international resolutions calling for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese troops from Lebanon.

Some of the positions taken so far have been rather timid and reserved. However, there has been a noticeable shift toward a better understanding of recent events.

There is a need in this regard to underline several facts: First, those who show considerable enthusiasm for implementing a cease-fire under any conditions do not share with the Lebanese the long and bitter experience the latter have had with cease-fire decisions which were violated consistently before the ink had a chance to dry, nor, for that matter, do they share the blood of the victims in the streets. In each and every case, the Syrian occupier distanced itself from the violations and denied any responsibility for the bloodshed. Therefore, we have insisted that a Syrian-Lebanese military committee endeavor to bring about a final cease-fire and draw a timetable for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Second, some people still talk about the so-called blockade of certain areas. What these people forget to mention is that there are three legal ports in Tripoli, Sidon, and Tyre that are still authorized to operate in the Syrian occupied areas. The only areas subject to a blockade are those which are controlled by the legitimate authority of General Michel 'Awn. This proves that the government does not intend to blockade any ports other than the illegal ones which are being used for smuggling purposes. The government seeks to keep these ports inaccessible to any ship which would dock at these ports, rather than at the legal ones.

Third, the current confrontation in which the government is engaged started because the latter seeks to create the atmosphere in which a free dialogue may be held among the Lebanese, and away from the Syrian terror and pressure which is exerted by the gun and by the intelligence services. [passage omitted]

'Awn Claims 'Still Willing' To Hold Dialogue

NC0304082589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] In an interview published today in the French paper LA LIBERATION, Prime Minister Michel 'Awn accuses Syria of organizing violence and smuggling drugs into Lebanon. 'Awn reiterated his determination to resist, announcing that he is still willing to hold a dialogue.

General 'Awn said that Syria's tactics are well known. The Syrians want to maintain tension in Lebanon. For as long as this is the case, the world will not question the reasons for Syria's presence in Lebanon. 'Awn added that the Syrians are careful to keep this situation below a certain level of violence, so that the world will not blame them for that violence.

Gen 'Awn said that the current battle in Lebanon, the battle of national liberation, is not being conducted against Syria alone, but also against all the foreign

powers interfering in Lebanon. The Israelis are no different from the Syrians, nor are all the others that Syria brought to Lebanon; that is, the Libyans, the Iranians, and other terrorist groups which operate with Syrian blessing.

Gen 'Awn said: Thanks to Syria, our country has been plagued with terrorism and narcotics. Syrian officers, he added, are supervising the growing of opium in the Al-Biqa' and are making huge profits. The Lebanese never wanted their country to become a haven for international terrorism or an opium plantation.

Gen 'Awn, however, expressed his willingness to negotiate if Damascus shows interest in this option. Otherwise, he said, the only alternative will be to resist. 'Awn concluded by saying: Resistance is not a Christian issue; it is a Lebanese one. The Muslims are taking part in the resistance beside the Christians. Of the personnel in the Army which I command in our areas, which they call Christian, 30 percent are Muslims.

Foreign Ministry Official Wants Forces To Leave

AU3103160189 Paris AFP in English 1551 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Paris, March 31 (AFP)—The director general of the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Faruq Abillama, said here Friday that a settlement of the Lebanese conflict could only be achieved through the departure of all foreign forces from his country.

"Once foreign forces have left, three-quarters of the Lebanese problem will have been settled," Mr. Abillama said in Paris where he is attending a ministerial conference laying the ground for a summit of French language nations.

Syrian and Israeli troops both occupy parts of Lebanon.

"The revision of the Constitution is not the only thing at stake in the Lebanese conflict which has left 200,000 dead in 15 years. The war in Lebanon has much more important stakes for the whole of the Middle East," he added.

Mr. Abillama accepted the need for a change in the Lebanese Constitution, saying that "it is neither the Bible, nor the Koran", and added that after 15 years of war "it stands to reason that a number of aspects of politics in Lebanon must be reconsidered".

Syria Reportedly Gives Allies Rocket Launchers

NC3103161889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM NEWS AGENCY has cited a military source as saying that the Syrian occupation forces have provided the Al-Asad Battalion of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon with rocket launchers. These launchers have been stationed in the Al-'Ibadiyah area, and in the areas of Al-Mazra'ah, Al-Tariq al-Jadidah, and the suburb in Beirut. This has caused horor among the citizens of Beirut.

Citing the same source, the agency reports that a number of people confronted and prevented Syrian soldiers from setting up rocket launchers on rooftops in Al-Bastah and nearby areas of West Beirut.

Syrian Artillery Shells, Positions Described

NC0104135789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Military experts today disclosed that the Syrian occupation army is using 180- and 240-mm artillery shells against the free Lebanese areas. These shells have a range of 45 km and weigh up to 88 kg. Several of these fell on the Al-Dawrah fuel tanks and on residential areas and pubic institutions, including social and charitable organizations, as well as schools and hospitals.

It is worth noting that these destructive weapons, which were supposed to be used in the liberation of Golan have actually been employed to demolish Lebanon and kill the Lebanese.

Military sources also disclosed that the Syrian occupation army has three artillery battalions, equipped with 18-mm guns, in Qummul in Al-Biqa', 2 km west of Tallat al-Sayyidah in Zahlah.

It should be noted that these three battalions were stationed in Al-Biqa' on the pretext that Syria would use them to confront Israel. These battalions have been used since 14 March however to strike at Lebanon and to destroy it.

The fragments of the destructive shells are at the disposal of the free world and Arab countries. Any Arab or foreign correspondent may see them and establish the viciousness of the crime being perpetrated against Lebanon.

Lebanese Forces Command Issues Statement

NC2903204989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] The General Staff of the Lebanese Forces' Command has issued the following statement:

Since recent events began, the Syrian occupation army and its local tools have been concentrating their rocket and shellfire on residential areas and vital civilian installations. Since the beginning, the Lebanese Forces have responded to this escalation with appropriate military means. The Lebanese Forces warn the attackers, who are barricading themselves in residential areas and villages, against the results of this growing escalatory course and warn that they will be compelled to retaliate mercilessly to stop these criminal practices which depart from all military norms.

The Lebanese Forces remind the Syrians and their collaborators of the need to abide by basic international and humanitarian norms.

'National Resistance,' PFLP Claim Attack

NC3103131089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The national resistance has released a statement in which it announced that a group of its revolutionaries, using machineguns and rockets, attacked an enemy platoon that was conducting patrol duties and laying ambushes in the Shihin area. The statement added that strugglers Khalid and Abu al-Za'im were martyred and that the rest of the group managed to return to base. The statement said that the battle lasted for 2 hours, during which the occupation forces used tanks, artillery, mortars, and machineguns. The statement noted that the operation was carried out to mark the land day anniversary and to assert the cohesive struggle between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, the need to vanquish and repel the occupation forces, and the need to recover the legitimate national rights which cannot be achieved by concessions and illusions of a solution.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1243 GMT, referring to Israeli reports on the incident, states: "The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has announced from Beirut its responsibility for the abortive infiltration attempt on Thursday night."]

Israeli Convoy Advances into 'Liberated Areas'

NC3103143189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] According to security sources, the Israeli forces and the agent Lahd militia groups have brought in armored units to the eastern sector, including 20 Merkava tanks.

Another Israeli force, comprising 10 vehicles, took up position on the Al-'Ayshiyah-Al-Rayhan frontline.

Meanwhile, an Israeli armored force of eight vehicles also has been deployed in two Lahd positions in Bra'shit and Al-Shumariyah, while another Israeli military convoy advanced from Tallat Haddathah near Shiba' on the (Jun'um) frontline and advanced 3 km into the liberated areas.

Attempt To Split Nasirite Organization Foiled

NC0104141689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Sources of the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] in Sidon have said that gunmen belonging to the organization have foiled an attempt by Abu Ahmad Hanqir to split the organization. These same sources said that Hanqir carried out this attempt with the help of an armed group stationed in the old castle and surrounding cellars, and with the aid of Colonel Abu Ziyad, a Syrian intelligence officer. These sources added that Hanqir managed to take refuge with extremist Islamic groups, which smuggled him out of Sidon.

It was later reported that Hanqir and a number of his supporters were handed over to the NPO police.

Security sources in Sidon earlier had reported that at least two people were killed and several others were injured during violent clashes between two armed groups belonging to a Lebanese organization. The sources said that the clashes, in which various types of weapons were used and which lasted until the morning, occurred between the Nasirite Organization and a dissenting group.

'Awn-Ja'ja' Forces Continue To Shell W. Beirut

NC0104182989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The 'Awn-Ja'ja' militia maintained tension on the traditional combat lines, especially in the capital, throughout the day. The militia resumed its attacks on residential areas this evening by shelling and directing machinegun fire at Ra's al-Nab', Al-Muraysah, Kayfun, the Baysur Hills, 'Aytat, Al-Shuwayfat, and Ra's al-Jabal in 'Alayh. The fire originated in Suq al-Gharb, Kafr Shima, Al-Wadaya, the vicinities of B'abda and Al-Yarzah, and the Al-Matn coast.

We have just been informed that three shells landed on Shtawrah a short time ago and that the shelling is continuing.

'Violent' Fighting, Bombardment Continue

NC0304084089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The Mar Mikha'il area was the target of three artillery shells at approximately 0930 today. Citizen Bassam Ibrahim al-Nakhwi was killed and several others were wounded as a result.

In the shelling of Kafr Shima, citizen Pierre Tony Ya'qub was wounded. Three shells also hit the central Al-Matn area at approximately 0940. The bombardment was renewed at 1000.

Meanwhile, violent clashes continue along the combat lines in the mountain area. The Lebanese Army is returning fire. It has been reported that an antiaircraft gun and a tank have been destroyed in Al-'Ibadiyah.

In another development, the security sources have advised the citizens to exercise caution in view of intentions to escalate the situation.

Furthermore, Syrian attacks are continuing against the Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb. Artillery and rocket fire has been directed against 'Arayya, Al-Kahhalah, and Al-Jumhur since morning.

Naval Bombardment of Al-Jiyah; Casualties Noted
NC0304090089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpts] After more than 24 hours of artillery shelling and rocket fire in many areas of the capital, the suburb, the mountain area, Al-Biqa', and Kasrawan, AFP said that 10 persons were killed and 40 others wounded.

The number of casualties has risen to 119 dead and 600 wounded since the 14 March massacre. The explosion of shells and machinegun fire are still being heard every now and then.

The port of Al-Jiyah came under several attacks last night. The attacks were carried out by naval gunboats which fired many shells and directed bursts of gunfire at the port. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a new fire broke out in one of the fuel tanks in Al-Dawrah yesterday. The fire was largely contained at 1700. However, intermittent shelling continued on the combat lines throughout last night.

At midnight last night, the naval bombardment of Al-Jiyah port was renewed, and the Progressive Socialist Party's [PSP] artillery returned the fire. At 0045, gunboats bombarded the port for the third time and the PSP's artillery again engaged them. The bombardment was heard in the city of Sidon. Sources could not determine the identity of the gunboats, but believe they belonged to the Al-Yarzah naval and air operations room [of General Michel 'Awn]. [Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic at 0530 GMT on 3 April in a similar report adds: "The shells fell in the vicinity of the port but no fuel tanks there were hit."]

Iran's Velayati Arrives, Makes Statement

JN0104180089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. On hand to greet him at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Dia'ullah al-Fattal, directors of the Asia Desk and Protocol at the Foreign Ministry, as well the Iranian ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Dr Velayati said he is carrying a letter from President Khamene'i to President Hafiz al-Asad. During the visit, he will hold consultations and exchange views with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on bilateral relations and regional and international developments, the Iranian foreign minister said. He called relations between Iran and Syria close and strong. As revolutionary Muslim countries at this juncture and in this part of the world, Velayati added, Iran and Syria have a constructive and extremely important role to play. In this context, the two countries have been very close to each other and will continue to be so, the Iranian foreign minister said.

Notes Countries' Role in Region

LD0104191889 Tehran IRNA in English 1911 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Damascus, April 1, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation arrived here Saturday [1 April] and was received by his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'. [passage omitted]

Speaking to reporters on arrival, Velayati spoke of the firm ties between the two Islamic and revolutionary countries and their important role in regional politics. He said Iran and Syria had and would stand by each other under the most difficult conditions.

Holds Talks With Al-Shar'

JN0104204389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—A session of talks between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati was held at the Foreign Ministry this evening. The talks were attended by Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister, and Munir Musa Basha, director of the Asia Desk. On the Iranian side, the talks were attended by Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus; and Moheb 'Ali, political director general in the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The discussion dealt with bilateral relations. The two sides also discussed the international situation and the current developments in the region.

Further on Talks

LD0204083489 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, April 2, IRNA—The first round of talks between foreign ministers of Iran and Syria was held here Saturday night.

Iran's foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reviewed with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' the current developments in Lebanon and the latest conspiracy of the head of the Lebanese Maronite military government Michel 'Awn in expelling combatants and progressive forces from that country.

A spokesman for the Iranian delegation in an interview with IRNA said that strategic ties between the two countries and their campaign against the Zionist regime and its agents in the region were discussed in the 3-hour meeting.

The two sides also talked about the positive impacts of the Amal-Hizballah agreement in Lebanon, he added.

Velayati's talks with Al-Shar' also covered latest developments regarding implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, as well as the Afghan issue.

Velayati arrived here Saturday afternoon on a one-day visit to discuss latest developments in Lebanon. He is carrying a message from president 'Ali Khamene'i for his Syrian counterpart.

He said upon arrival here that Tehran-Damascus ties were very strong and that the two countries had a constructive role to play in the region.

Meets Amal, Hizballah Leaders

LD0204083889 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, April 2, IRNA—Amal leader Nabih Birri and members of the Hizballah leadership council held separate meetings with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday night.

During the meetings, the current events in Lebanon as well as the "Zionist plot" to massacre the Muslim people of the country through Michel 'Awn, head of the military Maronite government, were discussed.

Also, leaders of Amal and Hizballah briefed Velayati on the progress of their talks to achieve durable peace. Iran's efforts have brought the two Shi'ite groups closer to the extent that they reached an agreement in January to stop fighting and work out a plan to accomplish a durable peace.

The foreign minister stressed the need for solidarity and unity of Lebanese Muslims in countering Zionist and imperialist plots.

Meets President al-Asad

JN0204124589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at 1 received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akb215 today and the accompanying delegation. The me Velayati attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' aeting was Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasand Iranian Velayati conveyed a message to the presin Akhtari. Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. dent from

This morning, a meeting was held betwee Minister Faruq al-Shar', 'Ali Akbar Velayatin Foreign Movement delegation headed by Nabih Bir the Amal Hizballah delegation headed by 'Abbas al-Mu, and the sawi.

During the meeting, they reviewed the stage: menting the agreement signed in Damascus o of imple- ary, 1989, between the Amal Movement and n 30 Janu- The conferees expressed their full satisfactio Hizballah. implementation of this agreement. n over the

They also discussed means of confronting the being woven against Lebanon's Arab identity, conspiracy independence. unity, and

Al-Asad Urges Cooperation

LD0204201789 Tehran IRNA in English 2010 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Damascus, April 2, IRNA—Presic al-Asad today stressed the need for further cdent Hafiz between Iran and Syria to strengthen Islamic acoperation alist forces in Lebanon. nd nation-

Speaking in a meeting with Iran's Foreign Mi Akbar Velayati, Al-Asad also said Tehran-Dannister 'Ali were "strong and strategic" and that Syria wanascus ties relations to be further consolidated. nted these

Velayati handed Al-Asad a message from Pre: Khamene'i on the situation in the region andsident 'Ali ening crisis in Lebanon. the wors-

Thanking Velayati for the message, Presider said Iran and Syria must constantly cooperatent al-Asad other in order to counter plots of Zionism and with each in Lebanon and the region. its agents

Velayati also stressed the role of the Syrian strengthening Islamic and nationalist forces in troops in Lebanon.

He said the recent events in Lebanon show tha U.S.-Israeli plots which in the past were cat the joint through creating clashes between nationalist arried out forces, had now been foiled after the Amal-nd Islamic agreement. -Hizballah

The two rival Shi'ite groups of Amal and Hizballah signed a peace accord in January following extensive efforts by Iran and Syria to put an end to their hostilities.

"The Zionist regime and its mercenary agents in Lebanon are now acting directly and intend to implement a new and dagerous plot by weakening Syria's role in Lebanon," Velayati warned.

In this meeting which was also attended by the Syrian foreign minister and Iran's ambassador to Damascus, further cooperations between the two countries in political, economic and cultural areas were underlined.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of Iran and Syria held a joint meeting with leaders of Amal and Hizballah Sunday.

Latest developments in Lebanon and ways to counter plots of Zionist agents against the Lebanese people, as well as the necessity of preserving unity in the war-torn country were discussed during the meeting.

Amal leader Nabih Berri and Hizballah leader Sayid 'Abbas al-Musawi submitted reports on the current situation in Lebanon and the progress of the Amal-Hizballah peace accord.

At the end of the session, the two foreign ministers expressed their satisfaction with the full implementation of the peace agreement. [passage omitted]

2d Meeting With Lebanese Leaders

LD0304064389 Tehran IRNA in English 0605 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, April 3, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' held their second joint session with leaders of Amal and Hizballah groups of Lebanon, here Sunday evening.

They discussed further cooperation and coordination between the two Lebanese Shi'ite groups and expressed satisfaction with execution of Amal-Hizballah agreement reached in January to end their hostilities.

The two foreign ministers also expressed hope that with unity of Islamic and nationalist groups, Zionist plots to partition Lebanon will be foiled.

Amal and Hizballah leaders also stressed the need for increased resistance of Islamic groups against Zionists.

Velayati arrived here Saturday evening to discuss current developments in Lebanon with Syrian officials. He met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad Sunday afternoon and handed him a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Al-Shar' Briefs Al-Asad on Visit to France

JN2403143389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] In Damascus, President Hafiz al-Asad recieved Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today. Al-Shar' briefed the president on his visit to the French capital and the contents of French President Francois Mitterrand's message. The president expressed satisfaction with the contents of the message.

'Sources' Term Al-Asad's France Visit 'Premature'

JN2803192289 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Damascus, AL-BAYAN—According to information provided by informed sources in Damascus, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will not visit France in response to an urgent invitation extended by French President Francois Mitterrand last week through Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during the latter's Paris visit.

These sources voiced the belief that President al-Asad will take his time before making the visit, because it is premature to make it. They also said that this visit will only take place within the framework of a crystallization of new practical givens pertaining to the convening of the international conference and the settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Afghanistan

'Text' of Najibullah Message to UN Chief

LD0204064889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 1, BAKHTAR—President Najibullah has sent a message to Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary general. Following is the text of the message which has been circulated at UN Headquarters as an official document:

His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general:

I would like to inform Your Excellency that the grave developments and unprecedented military tension in Afghan provinces bordering on Pakistan—stemming from the militarist and interventionist policy of Pakistan vis-a-vis the internal affairs of Afghanistan—are glaringly clear. The Pakistani side grossly violates all the Geneva agreements, particularly the first document.

The policy of Pakistan which contradicts the Geneva agreements enjoys the irresponsible support of the U.S. Government, a guarantor to the agreements. The concentration of the Pakistani Armed Forces, its 11th and 18th Divisions in particular, on the border line which play the role of the backfront [as received] in the widescale invasion by the Pakistani Army, commandos, and militia against Afghan frontier provinces—particularly Jalalabad city—has created a qualitatively new situation which poses a serious danger to our country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

There are undeniable grounds and evidence about Pakistani interference, and intervention which indicate that Pakistna's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) has a wide-ranging plan for a rapid occupation of Jalalabad. The arrest of the two ISI officers inside Afghan territory is indicative of the extent of anti-Afghan Pakistani interference and armed intervention.

Pakistan's interference and armed intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs, which further intensifies daily in total contradiction with the Geneva agreements, have been conveyed in 355 notes to the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] office in Kabul. In its notes and various meetings, the Republic of Afghanistan has frequently demanded a plan to set up UNGOMAP permanent outposts in border areas, specifically Towr Kham, Teri Mangal, Chaman, Nawagai, Parachinar, and Miram Shah to prevent the dispatch of arms, ammunition, and armed extremist elements—as well as other forms of anti-Afghan interference and intervention on the part of Pakistan—like the ones set up in Towraghondi, Hayratan, and Shindand to observe the Soviet troops pull-out.

The Republic of Afghanistan seriously demands this request, because we are firmly convinced that if the creation of such outposts is ignored, it may lead to a flare up of military tension, fratricidal war, intensification of Pakistani interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, and a further threat to regional peace and security.

I would like to call Your Excellency's attention to the provisions of Article 24, Paragraph 1 of Article 25 and to Article 29 of the UN Charter knowing that you and the United Nations Organization will play your role in alleviating the present situation. This situation has deteriorated incredibly owing to the direct interference of Pakistan's Army and military intelligence for encouraging, supporting the armed opposition extremists, supplying them with arms and ammunition, and lending them logistical help inside the territory of Afghanistan. We appeal to you to take measures based on your conviction that your role in establishing peace and stability in the region is very important, and in implementing the Geneva agreements which have been signed thanks to long years endeavors under your personal supervision and the resolution of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly.

We are convinced that in line with the Geneva agreements, the establishment of UNGOMAP outposts in the above areas would be the first step in halting Pakistani interference and armed intervention in Afghanistan's internal affairs. We demand the establishment of these posts as soon as possible to study the situation and convey the same to Your Excellency, the signatories of the Geneva agreements and the guarantors the Soviet Union and the United States.

Taking the opportunity, I would like to renew my best regards, Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

More UN Posts on Pakistan Border Requested

LD0104065489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, March 31, BAKHTAR—President Najibullah's letter dated March 10 and 22nd and the note of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan dated March 11, addressed to Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general which pointed out the increasing Pakistani interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and violation of the Geneva accords, have asked the UN secretary general to make every efforts for quick establishment of additional UN observer posts along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, especially in Parachinar, Towr Kham, Nawagai, and Chaman areas through which arms are sent to Afghan extremists.

In line with the demand of the Republic of Afghanistan the UN secretary general has asked the Pakistani authorities to cooperate with the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] in immediate establishment of additional UN observer posts in

the said areas. Likewise, the UN secretary general has given instrucions to the responsible [as received] of the UNGOMAP in this connection as well.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Howe Remarks

LD0104185389 kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] A spokesperson of the Afghan Foreign Affairs Ministry commented on the irresponsible assertions British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe made during his visit to Pakistan. The spokesperson said the following:

During his recent visit to Pakistan and the Indian subcontinent, the British foreign secretary has tried menacingly to create obstacles on the path of a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue. Mr Geoffery Howe continued his country's extensive interference, which has been more glaring than the sun during the 10 years of undeclared war against the people of our country. In meeting the so-called head of the interim government and pledging to give generous assistance to the extremists, he has tried to boost the defeated spirit of the extremists and encourage them to continue the fratricidal war against the Afghan people.

The assertions by Mr Geoffery Howe that the government of the Republic of Afghanistan should resign and prepare the ground for a Pakistani-made regime are the manifestation of the fact that Mr Howe has been unable to dissociate himself from the thinking of the British colonialism. He tries, as before, to determine the fate of our country and to form a government in Afghanistan that would be favorable to Britain. Mr Howe's visit in Pakistan and his meeting with Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, the head of the so-called government of the extremists, reminds every clear-sighted person of the collusion that was taking place to bring to fall the government of Amir Amanollah Khan [king of Afghanistan during independence] by the English with collaboration of the elements attached to them.

Mr Howe has impudently extended this to the extent of claiming that the extremists' government made in Rawalpindi—which has been formed as a result of direct and shameless interference by the military intelligence of Pakistan—as if the extremists' government is interested in and favors forming a truly democratic government for Afghanistan.

The activities of the extremists in Konduz, Konar, and other regions of Afghanistan revealed their true nature as never before. Mr Howe's visit coincides with the further intensification of Pakistani military interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, which threatens the national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of Afghanistan. This interference, which has been extensively reflected in the world media, is the manifestation of the broad conspiracies being planned by those who organize war and aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan.

The decisive defense of the people and unarmed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan against the spreading aggression of the extremists and the Pakistani Armed Forces should be a lesson to all those people who are seeking ways to impose their will on the people of Afghanistan. Mr Geoffery Howe should well remember the time when Britain determined our country's fate by sending their gunships and generals.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan, while once again expressing its strong protest against the irresponsible assertions by the British foreign secretary—assertions which harshly interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan—stresses that the people of Afghanistan, as their forefathers, will never allow other countries to form their government.

Rebel Commanders Named as Deputy Ministers

BK0104144389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The Islamic interim government of Afghanistan has appointed General (Yahya Nowruz) as deputy of the Defense Ministry. His appointment has been approved by the cabinet. A 14-member commission has also been set up to determine the powers and limitations of the government and the head of the state. Another commander, (Matiullah), has been appointed as deputy of the Interior Ministry.

Rebels Launch Major Offensive on Jalalabad

BK3103154889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Islamabad, March 31 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have launched a new major artillery attack on the eastern city of Jalalabad, blowing up a government ammunition dump and causing heavy casualties, resistance sources said Friday. The sources said the new major offensive on Jalalabad was continuing Friday, following several days of relatively reduced action.

The mujahidin fired hundreds of rounds of heavy artillery Thursday on a government garrison at Qale Ordu, 1.5 kilometer (one mile) from the center of Jalalabad, the sources said. They hit an arms depot used by three brigades defending the city on the east, triggering a fire which engulfed the garrison and contiued to burn until Friday morning, the sources said.

Troops vacated the garrison and split into rear positions, and guerrillas were still exchanging fire with soldiers Friday, the sources said. Government casualties are "heavy," they said, adding that a number of officers were also killed. The sources gave no figures for mujahidin losses.

The mujahidin launched their attack on Jalalabad on March 5, quickly overrunning the key Samar Kheyl garrison 10 kilometers (six miles) east of Jalalabad.

Subsequent stiff resistance by troops of the Soviet-backed government, as well as the heavily mined fields surrounding some parts of Jalalabad, have stalled their bid to capture the strategic city, Afghanistan's third largest.

Afghanistan's state-run BAKHTAR news agency said the rebels fired 800 rockets into the city late Thursday in a renewed battle for Jalalabad.

In Kabul, the government said Thursday that it was expecting the mujahidin to launch a new major offensive on Jalalabad.

A new wave of Afghan refugees streamed into Pakistan following the beginning of the new offensive Thursday, said sources in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, near the border with Afghanistan. Some 1,500 families have crossed the border into Pakistan since Thursday fleeing fighting in Jalalabad, only 75 kilometers (46 miles) west of the border, they said.

Some 500 families reached Pakistan early Friday after trekking through cross-fire zones for hours, the pro-resistance Afghan Media Resource Centre (AMRC) said. Some 40,000 families have fled Jalalabad since the battle began.

The newly arrived refugees said fighting was heavy on the city's eastern perimeter and that the road linking Jalalabad with Kabul, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) to the west, was blocked to all traffic.

Rebels have thwarted repeated government attempts to reopen the important highway, forcing the government to use Mi-24 helicopter gunships to resupply by air troops defending Jalalabad.

The refugees said "tea and sugar were absolutely unavailable" in Jalalabad, adding that food prices have skyrocketed and that residents have problems finding food, the sources said.

Resistance sources said the new offensive began after rebel commanders reached an "understanding on adopting a new strategy" for controlling Jalalabad.

The commanders vowed to fight until the fall of Jalalabad, they said. A four-pronged attack opened with the mujahidin shelling the airport and other regime installations at the Reg Shah Mard Khan and Pashtunistan Wad areas, they said.

Update on Jalalabad Shelling

LD3103165689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Over the past 24 hours rockets and shells have been fired at Jalalabad and its periphery. An authoritative source in the Afghanistan Armed Forces reported to the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section that Pakistani military and extremists linked with Pakistan have fired 15,000 rockets and shells of various types of heavy arms on the city of Jalalabad and its periphery. Pakistani Divisions 11 and 18's artillery and other heavy weapons units participated in blindly firing on the residential areas of Jalalabad city and environs.

As many as 2,500 rockets and shells have landed in the residential areas and public welfare installations of the city of Jalalabad; as many as 65 people have been killed, among them 57 Hindus. Ninety-four people have been injured most of whom were women, children, and elderly men. As many as eight members of the Armed Forces have been martyred and 27 others have been injured.

A mosque, three houses, and 28 shops have been destroyed. Pakistan's long-range rockets and heavy weapons shells landed on the Hindu temple, which is situated in the old city. As a result a large part of the temple was demolished and 57 Hindus who were celebrating a religious occasion, died as the result of this criminal and inhumane act of the Pakistani Army and groups linked to it.

The source adds that brave Armed Forces based in Nangarhar and all defenders of jalalabad city heroically defended their positions and stopped the advance of joint enemy forces. Similarly, the heroic Armed Forces units effectively neutralized attacks of joint Pakistani and groups linked to it. The attacks came from various directions. As a result of the reciprocal fire and attacks of the heroic Afghan Armed Forces, 171 invaders were killed and 87 others have been injured. Similarly [words indistinct] 5 mortars, 6 reactif missiles sets, 3 recoilless guns, 4 DShK machineguns, and a convoy of arms and ammunition have been decimated along with 40 extremists.

Intelligence reports say that the number of Pakistani militia and soldiers and Saudi advisers have increased among the invading groups. Similarly, the supply of arms, ammunition, food, and other equipment from Pakistani Armed Forces Divisions 11 and 18 continues.

According to another report, a group associated with the Jami'yat extremist group engaged in the looting of people's property along Shir Khan port roads confronted the crushing blows of the state security units. As a result 10 of the looters, including one of their ringleaders named Hamidullah, were killed and four others including one of the Jami'yat ringleaders named Mohammad [word indistinct] have been wounded. One rocket launcher with 10 rockets and 3 Kalashnikovs with dozens of ammunition rounds have been captured. As many as six people associated with extremist groups have been captured by the state security officers in Turkman village in Konduz Province while distributing night letters for dissipation of fear among people.

The BIA military section adds that the security forces of Helmand Province crushed a group associated with Golbuddin in the area of Durey Rowd in Lashkar Gah. Seven extremist were killed and 11 others were injured; a large amount of arms and ammunition have been captured.

According to another report as a result of clearing up operation of the Armed Forces in Balaborj area of Qandahar 4 extremists were killed and 5 others were injured, and 21 ground-to-ground rockets have been captured. One set of reactif missiles and seven enemy dugouts have been destroyed.

Similarly, a group of armed extremists attempting to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of the area around Farah city has been eliminated as a result of an Armed Forces operation. As many as six of the criminals were killed and an extremist has been captured. A rocket launcher, one machinegun, four light machineguns, a vehicle, and thousands of ammunition rounds were confiscated.

Mujahidin Attack Airport

BK3103155589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that fighting continues between the mujahidin and Kabul regime forces around Jalalabad airport. Mujahidin blew up the control tower and other installations of the airport after attacking it with rockets and missiles. In the attack, at least 14 soldiers of the Kabul regime were killed and dozens injured.

Mujahidin foiled the attempts of the Kabul regime soldiers to recapture 13 military posts, which were captured by the mujahidin a few days ago.

All Outlying Posts Captured

BK0104111989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin have succeeded in capturing all security posts of Kabul regime troops in the vicinity of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province. Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan, quoting mujahidin commanders, says the Kabul regime troops are unable to face the mujahidin on the ground, but its Air Force was at (?war). They are chalking out a strategy to launch a coordinated attack to capture Jalalabad within a week.

Radio Kabul said at least eight Kabul regime troops were killed yesterday as mujahidin fired thousands of artillery rounds in a fresh offensive against the city. It stated that the fighting has intensified around Jalalabad following renewed attacks by mujahidin.

More Mujahidin Joining Offensive

BK0104163489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1630 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Kabul, April 1 (AFP)—The Kabul government said here Saturday [1 April] that new mujahidin units from the provinces of Paktia and Paktika had joined rebels fighting for control of the eastern city of Jalalabad.

"New mujahidin units from these provinces joined the offensive this week," a government spokesman said, adding that the fresh troops were in addition to the estimated 12,000-14,000 guerrillas involved in the battle since March 5. He said however that he was not able to give the size of the new mujahidin reinforcements.

(In Islamabad, resistance sources said the defence minister of the Afghan resistance government said Saturday that the mujahidin were seriously considering plans to attack military bases in Kabul and other large cities. Nabi Muhammadi said a resistance cabinet meeting held in the Pakistani city of Peshawar "seriously considered" the plans, the sources said. Mr. Muhammadi said mujahidin delegations had been sent inside Afghanistan to contact local commanders and to study the situation in order to launch the attacks under a unified command, the sources said.)

Analysts have said that lack of coordination has hampered the rebel bid to capture Jalalabad.

Intense shelling—2,500 rounds on Thursday and 900 rounds Friday—on the city itself has left a total of 69 civilians dead and 120 injured, the Kabul spokesman said. [passage omitted]

(Mr. Muhammadi also said the rebel delegations would register the number of tanks and armoured personnel carriers captured by the guerrillas so that trained people could be sent in to effectively use them against the Afghan Army, the sources in Islamabad said. He said Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar Province and only 75 kilometers (46 miles) west of Pakistan, would fall "very soon," they added. Mr. Muhammedi said rebels were also preparing to block the 400-kilometre (240-mile) Salang highway that links Kabul to the Soviet border in order to disrupt supplies from Moscow to the government of Afghan President Najibullah, the sources added.)

57 Indians Killed in Jalalabad

BK0104103489 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, government troops have repelled a fresh attack by rebels on the airport of Jalalabad. Sixty-five civilians were killed. AFP, quoting Radio Kabul, says 57 Indians residing in the city's traditional

trading center were among those killed. The radio said about 15,000 artillery rounds were fired at residential sectors—destroying houses, shops, and a mosque and a gurdwara [Sikh temple.

Reports from Kabul say the retaliatory strike by Afghan troops claimed the lives of 170 rebels. Reports also speak of fighting between the mujahidin in the provinces of Konduz, Helmand, and Qandahar.

28 More Indians Die

BK0204031489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] An agency report says at least 28 more persons of Indian origin have been killed in Jalalabad as rebels intensified their attacks on the city. In the fresh offensive carried out during the last 2 days, the rebels fired rockets on the town, killing more than 80 persons.

A government spokesman said in Kabul that the rebels mounted a 3-pincer attack on Jalalabad. They advanced under the barrage of heavy artillery fire and used tanks and armored personnel carriers. Many of the rockets hit residential areas and caused extensive damage. He said many of the people of Indian origin were killed when the Teg Bahadur Gurdwara [Sikh temple] in Jalalabad, where they had taken shelter, was razed to the ground.

Spokesman Denies Presence of Indian Advisers

LD0104191389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman, commenting on the unsubstantiated and hollow statement by Sebghatullah Mojaddedi and certain anti-Afghan circles who allege that there are Indian military advisers in the Republic of Afghanistan and that Indian pilots have taken part in the Jalalabad fighting; said:

The eyes of aware extremists, who enjoy the support of the Western military machinery, the petrodollar countries, and Pakistan, have become blind and their hearts devoid of love for the motherland and their compatriots. They want to take power by any means, even by destroying the country and the eliminating the innocent people of Afghanistan, giving it to foreigners, in lieu of their financial generosity and military machinery, the authority of our independent and high-headed country. They are unaware of the undeniable fact that they cannot impose on Afghanistan as they did in the past, when Lahore and Rawalpindi established Shahshojas [grandson of Ahmad Shah Abdali, who seized power in Kabul in 1838 with the cooperation of Britain and India].

Now the extremists, with all their wild ambition—and despite enormous financial and military support from the United States and Saudi Arabia and the direct and extended cooperation of Divisions 11 and 18 of the Pakistani Armed Forces in the Jalalabad military operations, and the support from Pakistan's military intelligence—have come under a crushing and lethal attack of the heroic Afghan Armed Forces.

Their screams have reached the capitals of their backers. They face shameful defeat. They again put forward pretexts to conceal their incompetence and shame, and cite unsubstantiated and false reasons for their defeats. So they ask for help from the sworn enemies of Afghanistan and accept the advice of [UK Foreign Secretary] Sir Geoffrey Howe with the manners of a servant.

The statement by Sebghatullah Mojaddedi on the existence of Indian military advisers in Afghanistan and the participation of Indian pilots in the Jalalabad fighting is nonsense and has no foundation. The Afghan Armed Forces have been hardened over the past 10 years of fighting and have acquired much experience in repulsing the enemy. The clear facts of their high combat preparedness and high morale, especialy of the heroic Air Force has been clearly revealed to the Pakistani-backed extremists by the defense of the cities of Qandahar, Herat, and Jalalabad.

Now the best, the most talented, the most experienced experts and advisers among Armed Forces officers enjoy high administrative and mobilization and leadership abilities. They could even become military advisers to the armed forces of a number of countries like the defeated and puppet Pakistani Armed Forces, and teach them good war tactics.

The flight of the Afghan astronaut in the joint Afghan-Soviet space mission is another outstanding instance of the readiness, dominance, skill, and bravery of the Afghan Armed Forces.

There is no doubt that the Republic of Afghanistan has close friendly relations with the Republic of India and has enjoyed Indian economic and humanitarian aid since the recent visit by the Afghan foreign minister to India and the talks he held with the Indian leadership. However, we have no need for Indian military advisers and pilots and any such statements are false.

Although there is no provision in the Geneva accords about the presence of Soviet military advisers after the completion of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, there are no military personnel or advisers in any of the Afghan Armed Forces' units, corps, or military contingents, and in Jalalabad not even one member of the Soviet Armed Forces or one adviser exists.

Pakistani Army Bases in Towr Kham Attacked

LD3103184289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] An authoritative source of the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces reported to the military section of BAKHTAR that a series of reports has arrived from

behind the enemy lines along the eastern border area. They reveal recent broad and unprecedent expeditions by the Pakistani Armed Forces into the territory of Afghanistan.

After being informed that Pakistan's militia and regular Army Divisions 11 and 18 have taken a wide-ranging and direct part in the armed invasion and attacks on Nangarhar Province, authoritative sources of the Armed Forces took extraordinary measures on 29 March and launched an attack on enemy concentrations in the area. Information received from different and reliable sources say that 200 members of the Pakistani Armed Forces, and armed groups linked to Pakistan, including a number of their commanders, were eliminated, while a large number of others were injured.

VOA, [Voice of America], BBC and other Western news agencies report that as a result of the attacks, installations in Towr Kham, used sometimes for the dispatch of Pakistani military, and groups linked to them, have been destroyed.

Nangarhar, Herat Province Battles Reviewed

LD0104193189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] During the last 24 hours intensive combat activities of the joint Pakistani forces and Pakistani-backed groups continued in various parts of Nangarhar Province, especially in the direction of Dasht-e Gamberi. An authoritative source of the Afghan Armed Forces reports to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section that the Pakistani artillery forces and groups attached to them have launched strong attacks on Jalalabad city and its environs using rockets and other heavy weapons. More than 900 shells have fallen on the residential areas of the city. These savage attacks martyred four of the city's residents and another 18 were injured; 43 houses and 17 shops were destroyed.

The source adds that the brave units and companies of the Afghan Armed Forces returned the fire and stopped the broad and intensive attacks of the aggressors in the direction of Shagiah and Dasht-e Gamberi and forced them to retreat. Another intensive enemy attack, which took place in Chapliar Khwar, met with strong resistance by the hero defenders of Jalalabad city. The enemy was forced to leave their trenches and was pushed back. As a result of enemy fire six armed forces personnel were wounded while 109 armed enemy personnel were eliminated and another 70 were wounded as a result of the Afghan Armed Forces' crushing blows.

Among those who killed are two outstanding commanders of the groups attached to Pakistan: Zahed and Muhammad Zahir. Also, four reactif missiles, three BM-12 systems [as heard], five rocket launchers, a tank, five mortars, three DShK rifles, four recoilless guns, two 76 desert guns [as heard], 48 light weapons, and vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

The report adds that the bravery and heroism displayed by the men, units, and companies of the Afghan Armed Forces have caused serious fear and division among the ranks of the aggressors and invaders. This bravery and heroism has weakened their intention to continue war, despite the intimidation and pressure by the officers of the Divisions 11 and 18 of Pakistan's army.

According to another report various attacks of heavy weapons by the enemy have taken place over the city of Ghazni, Khowst, and some parts of Paktia and Herat Provinces. A civilian was injured in the Khowst area. As a result of reciprocal blows by the Armed Forces, which took place in Gozareh District, Herat Province, 38 extremists attached to Rabbani's extremist group were killed. Twenty-four others were badly injured including Nurrodin and Mo'alam Hafiz, two of their ringleaders.

As a result of search and mopping-up operations, which were carried out in some parts of Qandahar and Konduz Provinces, 11 elements attached to the Pakistani-backed groups were killed, including two of their commanders, four were injured, and a large number of light and heavy weapons and mines belonging to the enemy were seized by the Armed Forces.

India

Gandhi Greets 'Arafat on Election as President

BK0204130089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat has been elected the first president of the independent state of Palestine. In Tunis today, the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization unanimously decided in favor of Mr 'Arafat. The officials said that radical, popular, and democratic fronts for the liberation of Palestine also approved the appointment.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has extended warm felicitations to Mr Yasir 'Arafat. In a message to the PLO leader, Mr Gandhi said that Mr 'Arafat's dedication and courage have provided the inspiration for the Palestinian revolution, and his election as president is the most benefiting [as heard] honor and manifestation of the trust reposed in him by the Palestinians.

The prime minister extended the country's full support in the quest for an early assertion of Palestinian sovereignty.

The Palestine National Council proclaimed the independent state of Palestine in November last year. It empowered the Central Council to form a provisional government.

Goods Exported to Nepal To Meet Shortage

BK3103162489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The Indo-Nepal agreement on petroleum products and coal expired today. The Nepalese Government has introduced several regulatory measures, including rationing of petroleum products, to meet the shortage.

Our Kathmandu correspondent quoting Indian Embassy sources says in order to ameliorate the sufferings of the Nepalese people, the Government of India has allocated quotas of certain essential commodities to be released for export to Nepal. These include sugar, molasses, baby food, milk products, and coconut oil.

Our correspondent understands that 5,500 tons of coal and some quantity of petroleum products lying at (Raksal) has also been released.

Agreement Reached With Pakistan on Water Issue

BK3103150189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] India and Pakistan have agreed to settle the Tumbel navigation project, Wular Barrage, issue bilaterally. This emerged at the end of the 4-day intergovernmental talks which concluded in New Delhi today.

The Pakistani delegation was lead by the secretary for water and power, Mr Abdur Rahim Mahsud, and the Indian delegation by the secretary in the Ministry of Water Resources, Mr M.A. Chitalay.

The two sides agreed to continue their discussions to reach an amicable bilateral settlement on the issue in conformity with the Indus waters treaty of 1960. The next round of talks will be held in Islamabad at a mutually convenient date.

Scientific Cooperation Talks With PRC End

BK3103161689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] India and China have agreed to formulate joint proposals for bilateral cooperation in a number of areas. This was decided at the first meeting of the India-China Subcommittee on Science and Technology Cooperation which ended in New Delhi today. During the extensive discussions the two sides identified a number of areas of common interest. These included agriculture, biotechnology, medicines, laser, remote sensing electronics, and also waste water treatment, low cost sanitation and radio astronomy.

It was agreed that both the countries will depute teams of working scientists for study visits. They will consider and identify specific fields for cooperation as well as for formulating collaborative proposals.

The Indian delegation to the talks was led by the secretary science and technology, Dr Vasant Govarikar, and the Chinese side by the vice chairman, State Science and Technology Commission, Madame Zhi Lilan.

Thai Prime Minister Leaves for Bangkok

BK0104045789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The Thai prime minister, General Chatchai Chunhawan, left New Delhi this morning for Bangkok at the end of his 5-day state visit to the country. He was seen off at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] among others by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao; and the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant.

Howe Interviewed on Afghanistan, Other Issues

BK0104042389 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 1 Apr 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] At the end of his visit to India, the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has admitted that there are sharp differences between London and Delhi on the conflict in Afghanistan and on other international issues. Our foreign affairs correspondent, Jack Thomson, reporting from Delhi says Sir Geoffrey continues the call for the replacement of the Afghan Government by a more broadly-based administration in Kabul. The Indians, on the other hand, believe that the government there can still survive. Here is Jack Thomson's report:

[Begin Thomson recording] In a BBC interview, Sir Geoffrey praised the courage and tenacity of the Afghan people, refugees, and mujahidin alike. He said they deserve to have a truly representative government in Kabul. In contrast, the Indians believe that if the Najubullah government can survive till August, the start of the Afghan winter, it will, as one official put it, be home and dry.

Unlike the British, the Indians maintain an embassy in Kabul, which reports that there is no panic in the city and that the morale of Afghan Government forces fighting the mujahidin has improved after the rebels' failure to take Jalalabad. But Sir Geoffrey said it was wrong to rely too much on testimony coming from Kabul. The rest of the world and those Afghans struggling to regain their independence were looking for the emergence of a government quite different from that of Dr Najibullah.

How could it be said, he asked, that a government which had owed its position to the support of the Soviet Army was acceptable to people who had been driven in their millions from Afghanistan. Despite these differences, the British foreign secretary said, there was a willingness in New Delhi to take advantage of the extent to which the Soviet Union had now moved, to what he described as a

Western agenda. That, he suggested, was a basis for future cooperation between Britain and India and for solving issues like Afghanistan, Cambodia, and South Africa.

Indian officials I spoke to are not so optimistic, and Sir Geoffrey acknowledged in particular their objections to British opposition to economic sanctions against Pretoria. But he said it was now recognized more and more that Britain was working ahead of any member of the Commonwealth for the end of apartheid. That, in fact, was what Mrs Thatcher was doing right now in southern Africa. [end recording]

'Powerful Bomb' Explodes in New Delhi

BK3103170189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1654 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] New Delhi, March 31 (AFP)—A powerful bomb exploded here Friday [31 March], injuring at least two people, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. No deaths were reported and the injured have gone to hospital, police were quoted as saying. The blast occurred outside the St. Stephen Hospital in the northern walled city of Old Delhi, PTI said. No further details were immediately available.

4 Injured in Blast

BK0104030089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Four persons were injured when a powerful bomb exploded in north Delhi last night. The injured have been taken to the hospital. Police have described the bomb as a powerful, crude device fitted with a timer. Investigations are on.

Construction of 6 Nuclear Power Plants Approved

BK0104161089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The Center has cleared six nuclear power plants with 500-megawatt capacity each. Talking to newsmen at Tirucharappalli today, the managing director of the Nuclear Power Corporation, Mr S.L. Katti, said two plants will be located at Tarapur and the remaining four at Kota in Rajasthan. He said India has become the seventh nation in the world to have developed indigenous technology for setting up nuclear power plants with the commissioning of the Narora plant last month.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Tehran Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon on Disunity

LD3103202289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1522 GMT 31 Mar 89

[First Friday prayers sermon given by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 31 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The matter I would like to speak about in my first sermon today is to continue our previous discussions about the causes of weakness and decline in societies and the causes of strength and endurance. [passage omitted] Today, I will talk about another of the factors behind and the causes of the weakness and decline of nations, government, and societies. I will, of course, begin the discussion today. It may be necessary for us to pursue it during several Fridays.

The topic I want to discuss today is on the divisions and disunity of expression among the ranks of the people living in a society. It is a very dangerous factor. It is a deadly disease. If one looks at history, one will find that one of the most important causes for the decline, and even the destruction of societies, is the existence of disunity of expression and dualities and disunity among the ranks of the people. You have thus heard among the colonialists of the 19th century that when they entered Third World countries, including Islamic lands, and brought them under their domination, a slogan became popular and it was this: Divide and rule. In other words, if colonialism wants to rule developing countries, the first means toward that end is the creation of divisions.

Well, we have spoken a great deal about the disunity of expression and divisions since the first days of the revolution until now. All the officials of the country have done this and, before anyone else, more eloquently than anyone else, and perhaps more extensively than anyone also, our dear honorable imam has stressed that matter and given guidance since the years 1358 and 59 [1979-81] that the cause of dissension was the existence of liberals and those in our country leaning towards Western culture and policies. I am of the opinion, however, that the matter must be mentioned time after time. It must be repeated because it should not be forgotton and also because the only thing at our command is that very assertion and its repetition.

People must be made sensitive to the creation of dissension and division. It must become a normal reaction on the part of society that whenever ordinary people and the masses see someone, anyone, who has taken the flag of dissension in hand and is creating dissension among the people with words, with actions, that person and his action must be rejected by public opinion. We must reach that point.

The people must become mature and aware; they must reach a level of thought, with respect to avoiding the danger of disunity and division, that if they see anyone creating dissension, the people themselves must brush him aside. We have no other solution other than that because dissension is not a mutual [do tarafeh] thing. Even if one person, one side, one group creates dissension and division, there will be division. In the end, satanic people can do something to force even quiet and calm people to create chaos and bring about dissension. It is public opinion, therefore, which must be equipped.

It is for that reason that I am raising this discussion once more in connection with the factors behind the decline of a society so that people will pay greater attention to it. [passage omitted]

One fundamental question arises here and it is this: Unity is a general thing. If we have two sides facing one another, and we use the term unity with them, one side will say unity consists of the other side joining us, following us and the other side will say the same. The division will remain. What is the criterion of unity? What is the axis of unity? Around what point do the people have the duty to unite? That is the fundamental issue, the most sensitive matter. The lord of the pious [Imam 'Ali] answers that. In the words of the lord of the pious the axis of unity has been made entirely clear. The lord of the pious believes the axis of unity is the leader, the leadership of the society. Where the imam of the society is, where the leader of the society is, there is the center and the axis of unity. There is no debate about that. [passage omitted]

In the words of the lord of the pious the matter is entirely clear. If an Islamic society wants honor, if it wants nobility and dignity, if it wants power, if it wants an abundance of blessings, if it wants a comfortable life, if it wants an atmosphere of friendship, peace and kindness; it must maintain unity of expression under the flag of the leader. [crowd chants support] [passage omitted]

Second Sermon

LD3103195389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1556 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Second Friday prayers sermon given by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 31 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Tomorrow, 1 April, is Islamic Republic Day, one of the most important days for our Islamic community among holy days and memories of the revolution. Ten years ago tomorrow, the people went to the ballot boxes. Nearly 100 percent of the people—just over 99 percent—voted for an Islamic Republic. From that day an important event took place in the world. After the apostate and arrogant machinery had tried to imply that the days of religion were over and imposed antireligious cultures over societies, were daily driving religion from society, and even from the corners of the hearts of the people, suddenly, in this extremely sensitive region of the world, a great movement took place which rendered fruitless and nullified the many-decades efforts of arrogance and colonialism.

Religion became the axis of the social system, it became the axis of government and politics. A system evolved based on religion, on Islam, which arrogance and political domination machinery had known for a long time. They had realized the power of Islam and its oppression-fighting spirit. They knew what a great threat the Islamic government would be to the interests of world domination and the division of the world between big powers. Therefore, from the very first day, the conspiracies and attacks started. The Iranian nation was surrounded by spiteful and cruel enmities, and arrogance used all its might against this ummah, that is, against the Islamic Republic and Islam, right up until today.

Thank God, thanks to divine traditions and the will of the creator of the universe, day by day the Islamic Republic has become stronger, more important to the people, better known in the world, more attractive to wise men and Muslim strugglers, and dearer and more valuable to the Iranian nation. The people have made many sacrifices for this great God's blessing, which they value. [passage omitted]

The reason for the enmity of the world dominators toward the dear and great leader of this revolution is his strict adherence to Islam. If the imam and this ummah had been prepared to compromise an inch of the principles of Islam, make a deal with the big powers and forgo the principles of Islam, no doubt the situation would have changed and the enmities would have turned into friendship and help. [passage omitted]

Our nation has shown that it stands fast and supports this decisive leader, who is reliant on God, devoted to God's aims, and who fears no obstacle in his divine course. Thank God, they have successfully come through past tests, and in the future, with their will, resolve, faith, and loyalty to their great leader, these people will overcome all enemy plots and bring the enemy to his knees. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

There are two or three issues that I must talk about today. One of the issues I want to talk about is that of the future leadership and the great and historical decision of the imam of the ummah and this great event which took place in our society. It is one of the most important, instructive, and historical issues for our nation, and one of the biggest sources of pride for the leader of this revolution and the imam of this self-sacrificing ummah. The more one ponders on this matter, the more one realizes the greatness of the imam.

From one viewpoint this is of course a simple issue; but from another viewpoint it is an extremely important one. It is simple as it is the case regarding Islam. In Islam, personal relations and feelings, and steadfastness, and so forth, are irrelevent. In Islam, the interests of Islam and the system take precedence over all affairs and personal and collective issues. No consideration could come before the interests of the system. Islam is like this.

If you look at the verse in the holy Koran about the faithful: He who performs a task, he who is faithful to God and is adamant about traversing God's path, does not listen to what the enemies say, what trash the foreign radios are saying, and what hue and cry they raise about this decision and this action. It was a firm decision, and

our dear imam has shown this decisiveness in many instances, which has amazed all friends and enemies all over the world, regarding the war, the resolution [598], the various political issues in this country. One of the most outstanding characteristics of the imam is this same decisiveness in the performance of his duties. [passage omitted]

What has happened in our society today, that is, the deputy leader's resigning his post, means that when the leader of the revolution decides what is best, he does not care what the people, friends and enemies, foreign radios and political commentaries say. They can say what they like. How will history judge it? Of course, I am certain that every action of the imam will be recorded in history as a shining deed done by that holy person—based on the imam's earnestness. The imam is unconcerned with how history will judge him. He is concerned with doing his duty.

By God, this is a lesson for us. Some people wish to say, write, or leave behind something that will remain in history, so that they could say they have done something. The imam does not think about that. He is unconcerned with what people will say in the future. Of course, God Almighty blesses such sincere actions. God Almighty values honest deeds and accepts them. Accepting honest deeds means that marks are made on society. As you can see, whatever the imam does makes it mark.

For 8 years, these people had said: War, war; but when our dear imam deemed it appropriate, he accepted the resolution and said: No, cease-fire. He did not care what he had said the previous week, 10 days, or 1 month before. This is the duty, this is in the interests of islam. It is irrelevant what others say, and as he works for God, God places all facilities at his disposal. [passage omitted]

In his letter to Ayatollah Montazeri, the imam said: Everyone knows how much I like you. That night, when we were with his excellency the imam, he told us the same thing, that he [Khomeyni] liked him [Montazeri], that old student of his, and that he considers him a learned theologian. However, it is not a case of liking someone or personal relations; it is that of duty and the interests of Islam and the Muslims. I do not wish to go deeply into the matter, to see what the weaknesses were, and in what form. These do not concern us all that much. What is said in the imam's letter and in his [Montazeri's] reply to his excellency the imam, clarifies the matter to an extent.

I view the matter from the angle that the Islamic society needs such decisiveness in the face of dangers and global conspiracies. By God, if the imam had not been so decisive and straightforward when dealing with various issues, the revolution would have been long dead today. If the imam had lacked this decisiveness, the revolution would not have been victorious and the Islamic Republic would not have been established. [passage omitted]

That is the way the leader must be. The leader must be like that. At all levels, weakness and shortcomings arise, so hopes are invested in the leader. Anywhere and at any level where there is a problem the people's eyes are focused on the leader to see how he reacts. If it is not dealt with, then there is no hope. Therefore, it is everyone's hope that the leader, the imam of the ummah, who is at the head of society and who who sits at the peak of society, will be a source of emulation, the hand of which will deal with any problem or shortcoming at any level. We saw that the hand of wisdom and the understanding mind of our dear imam untied many knots in various fields: in the executive branch, in the judiciary, in various areas. [passage omitted]

The next issue to which I feel I must refer is the issue of the State Punishment Law. After the honorable imam gave the responsibility for decision-making in that connection to the Expediency Discernment Council, which first undertook wide-ranging examinations in numerous meetings. With regard to Tehran and the provinces, it examined the weaknesses, shortcomings, and strengths of previous measures—there were both weak points and strong points. It discussed them. After numerous intensive meetings, a very strong and powerful law was created.

In accordance with that law, offences committed by government institutions, government companies, ministries, institutions and offices, and also financial offences, are dealt with by the government. Committees and an organization within the government have been designated to deal with those offences. They must examine and review the offences. And the nongovernment sector's offences, that is, in the people's sector—whether it relates to hoarding, high prices, various offences, actions which are out of order, and other offences, and there are about 30 such offences—if it exists in society, brings about great losses for the people. Each of these has been assigned a punishment. Those offences will be examined by the Ministry of Commerce and they will be judicially dealt with by the revolution's court. [crowd chants support]

It is a very strong law. The various aspects of the law have been taken into consideration. We hope that it will also be implemented well; that is to say, that both responsible government organizations and also the responsible revolution's courts should pursue it with seriousness. If a law is not pursued by those who must execute it, it will not have much effect.

By passing that law in the Expediency Discernment Council, we have created the capacity for the executive and the judiciary to deal severely with that ugly presence in the society. I want to tell you that, unfortunately, some of the traders and those involved in buying and selling have not behaved well. Of course, we are not accusing all traders. Traders [kasabeh an asnaf] are faithful people, they are good people. They always supported the revolution. We often praised and supported them. We

are not in favour of fighting traders. Some people see it as their duty to fight them. No, we think that is a deviation. Traders must be given support by government organizations. They must not be fought.

However, there are some among the traders who have truly given traders a bad name. They have taken advantage; with high prices, cheating, with disregard for laws and regulations, with hoarding. They have held onto goods needed by the people for the sake of profit. But how much profit! [passage omitted] That law will deal with them.

We set the date at the 20th of Farvardin [9 April] not because we wanted to give a chance to offenders. No, offenders must not be given even an hour's chance. It was rather intended to give some time to responsible organizations to prepare themselves and to begin properly. About 1 month was given to them for them to act. We intended to give the news at that time as well, around the 20th of Farvardin. However, the news came out from various places. I was, therefore, forced to say a few sentences about it to inform our dear people. Apart from that, the details and small-print of the law is extensive and we will inform the people about the details, if it is necessary and appropriate, at the time of implementation. [passage omitted]

The people must seriously cooperate with the relevant government organizations. In that matter, too, the cooperation of the people will help just as it did, God be praised, in the case of the previous law passed by the Expediency Discernment Council, that is, the anti-narcotics law, the law against smugglers and merchants of death. Those who implemented the law performed well and I deem it necessary to thank them in the presence of the people. [passage omitted]

I invite all the worshipping brothers and sisters to pursue piety. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Western 'Sources' Cited on Montazeri Letter

JN0104173989 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 30 Mar 89 pp 1, 25

[Excerpt] London—Western diplomatic sources have disclosed to AL-QABAS the contents of the secret letter, which led to the decision to relieve Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri of his semiofficial post as Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni's successor.

These sources said that the letter, which was sent to Khomeyni by Montazeri last week, calls on Khomeyni to put an end to the series of executions and bloodshedding.

These sources added that Montazeri wrote to Khomeyni: "At least let us spare the lives of pregnant women and mothers who are raising their children."

The letter also says: "We want politics to serve Islam, but Islam has become the servant of politics and politicians."

The same sources pointed out that Montazeri had rejected Khomeyni's fatwa on the need to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses"—a rejection that increased the differences and made them public.

The sources added that from the beginning, Khomeyni considered relieving Montazeri but preferred a resignation lest relieving Montazeri be understood as the outcome of a power struggle between moderates and hardliners.

The Western diplomatic sources also disclosed that other people close to Montazeri have been relieved of their posts in the past, including a number of governors, Army and Revolution Guards officers, and a number of mosque imams, who have been appointed by Montazeri himself over the past 5 years. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Montazeri 'Influenced' by 'Liberals'

LD0304102189 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—The morning English daily TEHRAN TIMES in its Monday [3 April] editorial commented on the recent resignation of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri and said "his weakness, and probably his biggest, was his credulity, which, at times, led him to trust all those who had something to tell him."

The editorial, titled "Montazeri's Resignation, Proof of Revolution's Islamic Nature" further added that Ayatollah Montazeri's decisions were reportedly influenced by words from different quarters "including the liberals, nationalists, those residing abroad and their letters, media propaganda and international bodies such as Amnesty International."

"In his reply to the ayatollah's letter," the editorial noted "Imam Khomeyni too complained that he had time and again warned him to purge his office of not trustworthy people."

"These developments, however, once again make it clear both to the friends and foes of the Islamic revolution that it is only the interests of the Islamic order that takes precedence over everything and everybody especially in the view of our uncompromising leader."

Commentary Views Montazeri, Khomeyni Letters

LD3103221289 Tehran in English to Europe 1953 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Unattributed commentary: "Ayatollah Montazeri Tenders His Resignation"]

[Text] The first week of the new solar year, 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989] came to an end at a time when one of the most important developments related to the

future of the Islamic revolution of Iran took place. During that week, Ayatollah Montazeri, the future leader of the Islamic revolution, in a letter addressed to the great leader and founder of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, resigned his position as the future leader of the Islamic revolution.

That move, which brought a wave of varying commentaries and analyses in its wake, is expressive more than anything else of the stability and might of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system. The reason is that in this system there can be held discussions and adopted a decision concerning the future leadership in simple terms and free from every type of clamor.

In order to inform the dear listeners of the contents of the letter of Ayatollah Montazeri and the response to it by Imam Khomeyni, we have prepared a summary which goes as such:

Ayatollah Montazeri, in his letter on Monday, 27th of March 1989, addressed to Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, in the course of the referring to his long-standing devotion to Imam Khomeyni and stressing the fact that he has constantly considered himself as a devoted, self-sacrificing and loyal soldier alongside Imam Khomeyni, noted that the survival and the stability of the Islamic revolution depends on the blessed presence of the imam.

In that connection, he elaborated on Imam Khomeyni's prudent leadership in encountering different thoughts, such as those hatched by the liberals and the Monafeqin [hypocrites]. In another part of Ayatollah Montazeri's message, while referring to the point that the leadership of the Islamic community is a difficult and exhausting task, and that he himself was opposed to his deputy leadership, it has been said: In view of many difficulties and heavy responsibility, I had written to the Council of Experts at that very time that my selection was not in the interest of the state. And now I expressly announce my lack of readiness.

In conclusion of his message, Ayatollah Montazeri added: I hope that you will always provide precious guidance to this sincere student and will not forget to pray for him.

In response to Ayatollah Montazeri's letter, Imam Khomeyni, in a letter addressed to him, while confirming Ayatollah Montazeri's view on the task of leading the Islamic community to be difficult, said: Since you have announced your lack of readiness to remain in the post of deputy leader, I, while accepting it, thank you for this. Everyone knows that you are considered as the fruit of my life, and I have extreme admiration for you, who are a jurisprudent.

In continuation of his message, Imam Khomeyni, while making an advice, in the manner of a teacher to his disciple, said: I observe your interest as well as that of the revolution in the fact that you act as a jurisprudent from whose views the Islamic system and the people should benefit. While reassuring that adverse propaganda and spread of false reports will have no effect on the (?people), in conclusion of his message, Imam Khomeyni reiterated in these words: I hope that, God willing, you will give warmth to theological centers and (?the system) with your lectures and teachings.

Interior Minister Warns U.S. on Role in Lebanon

LD0104113989 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA—As the Muslim people of Iran celebrated the first decade of the formation of the Islamic Republic all over country Saturday, the Interior Minister warned the U.S. against any direct intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs.

"If American forces re-entered Lebanon, horrible accidents similar to those which led to their withdrawal in 1982 would be repeated and Lebanese Muslims will turn Lebanon into another inferno for the Americans," Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi warned.

Mohtashemi made the remarks in a speech to a large group of people gathered around Imam Hoseyn (A.S.) [God's peace be upon him] Square in eastern Tehran to mark the Islamic Republic day.

The minister also harshly attacked the liberals for their "attempts to bring the country close to the West."

"Taking advantage of the atmosphere created in Iran after its acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 598, the liberals prepared themselves even for the presidential elections so that they could occupy key posts and push the country towards the West," he said

Elsewhere in his speech, Mohtashemi termed Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [edict] for the execution of Salman Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses" as a "divine" move which consolidated the Islamic community across the world.

The leader of the Islamic revolution issued death order on the Indian-born British author on February 14 for blaspheming Islam and Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) in his novel.

Mohtashemi was interrupted several times during his speech by chants of support for Rushdie's execution.

Outlining the aborted plots of enemies against the Islamic revolution over the past decade, Mohtashemi said "what strengthened the Islamic revolution, despite so many plots, was the presence of the imam on the scene."

Describing the Islamic revolution as "perfe
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Further on Mohtashemi Remar

*LD0104104189 Tehran Domestic Service in
1030 GMT 1 Apr 89*

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Minister Mohtashemi gave a speech praising
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Enumerating some of the conspiracies of do
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Emphasizing the need for safeguarding Islamic principles and values, Mr Mohtashemi said: It is the duty of all Muslims to remain vigilant for the sake of safeguarding their Islamic and revolutionary aspirations.

Warning those who encourage laxity in the observance of Islamic dress and who propagate decadent Western culture, the interior minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will decisively confront such individuals, and just as the system is determined to carry out a relentless campaign against the smugglers and to completely uproot the evil phenomenon of drug addiction, it also has a careful plan to combat permissiveness and those elements who propagate laxity in Islamic dress.

He described the conspiracy of war and the partition of Lebanon as a danger for Muslims, and he warned the United States that if it wishes to enter Lebanon at the request of Michael 'Awn, it will be faced with the revolutionary wrath of the children of Lebanon.

These ceremonies ended with prayers for the longevity and health of the imam of the ummah.

Khomeyni Appoints Jannati Head of Propaganda

*LD0304113489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 3 Apr 89*

[Text] Following the request by the members of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Propaganda Organization for the great leader to directly appoint a person as the head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued a decree appointing Ayatollah Jannati head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization. The text of the imam of the ummah's decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Sheykh Ahmad Jannati, following the request by the honorable members of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Propaganda Organization for me to appoint a person as the sole official responsible for that organization, and to ensure the further progress of their work, I appoint you as the head of that organization.

It is clear that you, who are a pious and good person, with long experience in the struggles, who have spent a lifetime at the seminaries, could provide valuable services to Islam and the revolution. I hope that you will be able to carry out this important task, diligently and by utilzing all those who are faithful to the revolution and Islam.

Propaganda, which is giving information on good deeds and encouraging others to act accordingly, and describing bad deeds and showing others ways to refrain from them, is one of the most important principles of the dear Islam. God willing, you will do your best to clarify obscure and ambiguous points to the honorable people of Iran and the world of Islam, and show the pure

Muhammadan Islam, which is full of anger, hostility, and sacred and revolutionary disdain for Western capitalism and aggressionist eastern communism, as well as the way to fight against treachery and deceipt, to the people and especially our combative youths.

The fact that the system is serious about its goals and jokes with no one, and that if Islamic values are threatened, it would deal decisively with any person in any position, should be publicized to all the officials and the people, as an unalterable principle.

I pray to God Almighty for success for Your Excellency, the honorable members of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Propaganda Organization and all the personnel of that Organization. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

[Dated] 3 April 1989

Majlis Speaker Continues Visit to Khuzestan

Says Iraq 'Die-Hard Aggressor'

LD3103154789 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 31, IRNA—The Islamic Republic has left no stone unturned to reach peace with Iraq, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said today. "However, the other side (Iraqi regime) has proved to be an enemy with a die-hard aggressor spirit, and will not hesitate to renew its aggression whenever it thinks we have a weak point," he added.

The enemy is still resisting justice and continues to occupy parts of the Iranian soil in its attempts to sabotage implementation of U.N. Resolution 598, "therefore brothers you should increase your defensive readiness," the acting Armed Forces commander told a group of Muslim combatants in the southern fronts.

Turning to the "Islamic Republic Day" (April 1), the Majlis speaker said enemies had imposed the war on Iran in order to prevent the final victory of Islam. "But their dream was shattered thanks to Iran's military forces including the Army, IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] and Basij."

The hojjat ol-eslam also expressed hope that all credits allocated to Khuzestan Province would be spent on development projects there.

On Thursday, the speaker was in nearby Dezful, where he inspected the ceasefire lines, conditions of the forces and also reviewed situation of war refugees. Upon arrival, he held a meeting with military commanders at the joint IRGC-Army Headquarters during which he was informed of the latest developments in the southern areas.

Khuzestan Province had borne the brunt of the aggression, when without notice Ba'thist forces thrusted across the borders into the newfound Islamic Republic on September 22, 1980. The once thriving port-cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr and several other border villages were devastated by the Iraqis during their eight-year war.

Addresses Khuzestan Forces

LD3103210889 Tehran Domestic in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and speaker of the Majlis, in the second stage of his visit to Khuzestan Province inspected defense lines, fortifications and military training classes of the defensive forces of Islam in the southern sector this morning.

During these inspections, which lasted 3 hours, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while listening to the reports of the regional military commanders about the situation of the forces of Islam, inspected the defensive lines of our forces in a number of axes, and stressed the Armed Forces' need for preparedness and vigilance under the present conditions.

The acting commander in chief of the armed Forces Later visited one of the bases of a division of the forces of Islam in the southern sector, and in the gathering of the commanders and personnel of that division, he referred to the fact that the signs of Iraqi hostility and bestiality can still be seen there. He said: Despite the fact that many months have passed since the acceptance of Resolution 598, the enemy is still in our territory, and is resisting the truth and the implementation of the resolution. However, we are determined to support all those factors which guarantee peace.

Continuing his speech, he referred to the fact that on one side of this issue are those who, due to their aggressive nature, cannot be trusted. The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces stressed the need for continued preparedness, the continuation of military training and maneuvers, the reconstruction of damaged equipment and facilities, and engineering work. He said: In seeing your preparedness the enemy will despair; but anytime it feels that we are weak and unprepared, the enemy is the same old enemy. We hope that the Armed Forces will clearly understand this point.

At the end of his remarks, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that as a result of the efforts and cooperation of the people, the refugees of the imposed

war, the forces of Islam and of the people, and of the resources being spent in Khuzestan for defense purposes, the region will speedily move toward reconstruction and development.

Visits Hezar, Marun Plants

LD0204121189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] The Hezar gas and liquified gas plant and the first phase of the Marun gas injection plant, in Khuzestan, were commissioned today, in the presence of Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Our correspondent, Khameneh, reports:

With the commissioning of the first phase of the big Marun gas injection project, in Khuzestan Province, the capacity utilization of this oil-rich region has been increased by more than 2.6 billion barrels of usable gas. This big industrial-economic project, which was commissioned today in the presence of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief and the Majlis speaker, has been implemented at a cost of $1 billion to prevent oil wastage.

The Marun gas injection project is one of biggest projects implemented after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, with the continuous cooperation, assistance, and efforts of our country's oil installations experts. By injecting gas into the Marun oil wells, in addition to preventing oil wastage, the capacity utilization of the country's oil resources is raised by more than 2.6 billion barrels.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who spent 2 hours inspecting the various sections of the Marun gas injection plant and the Hezar liquified gas plant today, in an interview referred to the fact that in the past the country's oil resources were not used properly. He stressed: After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, by using various methods efforts have been made to raise the capacity utilization of the country's oil reserves, and for that, one should thank the experts and workers in the oil industry for their efforts.

It should be pointed out that the ministers of oil, energy, and Reconstruction Jihad accompanied Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the visit the Marun and Aqajari regional oil officials submitted reports on the progress and method of commissioning of this big oil project.

Khamene'i Inaugurates Abadan Refinery

LD0104104789 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA—The first phase of the war-damaged Abadan oil refinery was inaugurated by President 'Ali Khamene'i today on the occasion of the first decade of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In his inauguration speech, the president said "in light of the greatness of the project, the Iranian people now feel that they have the power of organisation, management and innovation." Lauding the oil industry personnel, Khamene'i said the completion of the refinery's first phase indicated that the country would be entirely reconstructed.

Khamene'i, pointing to plots of the enemies against the Islamic Republic, said the enemies of the Islamic revolution had imposed the war on Iran to humiliate the Iranian nation and deprive them of independence and freedom.

Addressing the oil industry personnel, Khamene'i said "you, hard working personnel proved that the Iranian nation by relying on itself can emerge as a wonderful power."

The president also called for the personnel to enthusiastically continue their reconstruction activities.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, who was also present at the ceremony, said the production of the refinery would amount to 380,000 barrels per day upon the operation of other phases.

The present output of the refinery which resumed partial operation a few months after the August ceasefire between Iran and Iraq, is 130,000 barrels per day.

Opens Ahvaz Complex

LD0104163789 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Ahvaz, April 1, IRNA—The melting and die casting units of the Ahvaz steel complex started experimental operation, Saturday [1 April] in a ceremony attended by President 'Ali Khamene'i.

In a brief speech, the president lauded the workers and experts of the complex for their hard efforts to make the complex operational.

Khamene'i urged the personnel of the complex to trust themselves because he said "taking Iran's reconstruction seriously will make you independent from others."

Earlier today, Khamene'i visited the ruined port city of Khorramshahr where he participated in a meeting of the High Council for Reconstruction of the city.

The president said that a special headquarters comprising several ministers would be set up to reconstruct Khorramshahr which he termed as a "symbol of resistance" during the Iraqi-imposed war.

Khorramshahr was occupied and demolished by Ba'thist forces in the early days of the Iraqi-imposed war. The city was later liberated by Iranian Muslim combatants in May 1983.

The president returned to Tehran Saturday evening at the end of his one day inspection tour of Khuzestan Province.

Velayati Returns From Moscow Visit 31 Mar

LD0104091989 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned home Friday night at the end of a two-day official visit to Moscow and talks with President Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

In remarks upon his arrival, Velayati termed his talks with Soviet officials as "fruitful." Velayati said bilateral talks focused on ways of strengthening Tehran-Moscow relations, the Iran-Iraq peace talks, the issue of Afghanistan and the latest developments in the Middle East.

During his stay in Moscow, Velayati submitted the Soviet leader a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i and discussed with him bilateral ties as well as regional and international issues.

The Soviet leader, terming Velayati's visit to Moscow as a sign of promoted ties between the two countries, voiced support for the Islamic revolution and the ideals of the Iranian people.

Gorbachev re-extended an invitation to Iranian Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay an official visit to Moscow. He also announced his country's preparedness to participate in Iran's reconstruction projects.

The foreign minister also discussed in details with his Soviet counterpart mutual cooperation in economic, commercial, industrial, technical and scientific fields, during two rounds of talks.

Velayati Departs for 1-Day Visit to Damascus

LD0104120689 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 1, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Damascus Saturday on a one-day visit to discuss current developments in Lebanon with Syrian officials.

In an interview before departure, Velayati said he will submit President 'Ali Khamene'i's message on Iran's views about the developments in Lebanon and Tehran-Damascus mutual ties, to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

He said he will also discuss "conspiracies being masterminded against Muslims and their interests in Lebanon and also those against progressive forces in the Islamic world."

The foreign minister wound up a two-day official visit to Moscow and returned here Friday night.

Daily Predicts Renewed Hostilities With Iraq

LD0304065289 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—An Iranian daily today predicted that new hostilities may be resumed between Iran and Iraq and that the prospect for achieving a durable peace would get dimmer if the U.N. chief fails to persuade Baghdad to withdraw its troops to the international borders.

Referring to the escalation of Iraqi violations of the U.N. mediated ceasefire with Iran, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said "these repeated Iraqi violations have prompted the U.N. chief to despatch his special envoy" Marrack Goulding to the region.

The English daily quoted Goulding as saying that "he had urged Iraq to show more restraints and avoid violations."

"By refusing to withdraw its troops to the internationally recognized borders, Iraq, contrary to its claims, is not after peace but only wants to get concessions from Iran," the daily's editorial said. "Iraq still occupies more than 2,000 square kilometers of Iranian territory," it added.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL expressed hope that Goulding's report on his observations in Iran and Iraq to the U.N. chief "will help the secretary general to take effective and speedy steps in persuading the Iraqi regime to withdraw its troops to the international boundaries and cooperate with the U.N. in implementing the peace plan."

Nepal

Indian Customs Officials Release Coal Shipment

BK0104113689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1127 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Kathmandu, April 1 (AFP)—Indian customs officials have allowed the transportation of 4,000 tonnes of coal into Nepal despite a trade suspension imposed by India on March 23, an official Nepalese source said Saturday [1 April].

Indian customs told the state-run Nepal Coal Company to transport the entire 300-truck load between last Thursday and midnight (1820 GMT) Friday, the source said, adding that the supply of coal was expected to last about six weeks. "It was a great problem for us to arrange for the 300 trucks to transport the coal from the Indian territory and the transportation continued throughout the whole night," he said.

The source said the company had bought the coal around March 19, four days before the trade and transit treaties between India and Nepal expired, but the shipment was blocked at the border along with other goods when the trade suspension came into effect.

The treaties have yet to be renewed as neither side can agree on what form they should take. India has called for a unified treaty to resolve continuing differences on trade and transit, while Nepal wants separate accords.

A Nepalese Ministry of Commerce spokesman said Thursday that supplies of essential goods, including medicine, medical equipment, salt, sugar and baby food had actually been blocked from March 19, despite an earlier announcement by India that these goods would be allowed through after the expiration date. India has denied suspending the flow of these goods.

An official said current stocks of essential goods would last for about two months. Nepal has countered the trade suspension by allowing direct imports of some goods from abroad.

Indian customs officials banned the movement of all Nepal Government vehicles across the border Saturday and have drastically reduced the flow of private vehicles, a Nepalese Transport Association spokesman said.

Fuel shortages are also causing problems, with current Nepalese stocks unlikely to last for more than four weeks, an official said.

The government has cut energy rates to alleviate the burden on consumers who have seen gasoline prices and transport fares sky-rocket.

75 Students, 2 Newsmen Jailed; University Closed

BK0304091089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0852 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Kathmandu, April 3 (AFP)—Nepalese police arrested 75 students and two journalists, the outlawed Nepali Congress said Monday [3 April] as the country's only university announced it was closing for two months because of oil shortages.

The arrests came as anti-Indian demonstrators took to the streets in Kathmandu to protest against the disruption to trade in the Himalayan Kingdom following the expiry of trade and transit treaties with India on March 23.

"The campus students, who were staging a protest, were told that they were invited by the Tribhuvan University vice chancellor for talks but were taken into police custody," a spokesman for the banned political party said.

The students had been demonstrating for the past 15 days, demanding education reforms, transport concessions and hostel facilities. The congress spokesman demanded the immediate release of the students and the two anti-government journalists also arrested.

State-run Radio Nepal meanwhile said that oil shortages had forced the university and other institutions to close, affecting 75,000 students. "Keeping in view the difficulties faced by both the teachers and the student community, the university has decided to close all the campuses and educational institutions for next two months," the announcement said.

The Nepali congress spokesman said the closure of the university "on the pretext of the oil crisis" was made to forestall student unrest. Two demonstrations took place in the Kathmandu area early Monday, with protestors raising slogans against the Nepalese Parliament, the arrest of the students and what is perceived here as an Indian trade embargo.

A spokesman for the state-run Nepal Oil Corp. said India had completely blocked the transportation of petroleum products since March 24. "Oil tankers loaded with liquid petroleum gas on March 23 and those which left for their destinations with bitumen on March 20 are still being held up at Raxual," he said. Raxual is 190 kilometres (118 miles) south of Kathmandu.

Indian claims that oil supplies are getting through are "an absolute lie" although a tanker carrying 12,000 litres of kerosene for the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu was allowed to cross the border Friday, the spokesman said.

Traffic has fallen 75 percent due to the oil shortage, causing difficulties to local people as well as tourists.

Pakistan

Interior Minister on Attempt on MQM Leader's Life

BK0104155389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The interior minister, Aitzaz Ahsan, met with Altaf Hussain, the leader of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM], in Karachi today.

Later, the federal minister spoke to newsman, saying that he has come to Karachi specifically after hearing the report of an attempt on the life of Altaf Hussain. He said the government is concerned at this incident. He assured that every possible step will be taken to arrest the people involved in the shooting incident. He said the government is considering convening a representative roundtable conference of all sections of people living in Karachi to discuss the ways and means to establish lasting peace in this metropolitan city. The Pakistan People's Party [PPP] government, he said, believes in the rule of law and will maintain law and order in Karachi at all costs.

Answering a question, the interior minister said the government has been keeping a strict watch on the situation in Hyderabad.

In reply to another question, Aitzaz Ahsan said the PPP will not deviate from the Karachi agreement [between the PPP and the MQM] and that it will be fully implemented.

The interior minister later visited the spot where the shooting incident had taken place yesterday.

The MQM leader welcomed the proposal to convene a representative conference to discuss ways to establish lasting peace in Karachi. Talking to newsmen after his meeting with the interior minister, he said this is a welcome step and the MQM will extend its fullest cooperation to make the proposed conference a success. Altaf Hussain made a fervent appeal to the general people, especially to the MQM workers, to foil the designs of the antisocial people who want to create hatred among various sections of the population.

Welcoming the interior minister's visit to Karachi, Altaf Hussain expressed the hope that the government will inform the people of the progress made in the investigations into yesterday's shooting incident.

Punjab Chief Nawaz Sharif has condemned the attempt on the life of the MQM leader, Altaf Hussain. Talking to newsmen in Karachi today, he said the position of the Islamic Democratic Alliance on the repatriation of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh is very clear. Nawaz Sharif visited the mausoleum of the Great Leader [Muhammad Ali Jinnah], placed a floral wreath there, and offered prayers.

Bhutto Visits Army General Headquarters 1 Apr

BK0104143789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister visited the [Army] General Headquarters in Rawalpindi today and attended the proceedings of the Army Selection Board. Ms Benazir Bhutto was briefed on the working of the board and was informed that the selection was very competitive and officers with good record of service and demonstrated capability can receive promotions to high ranks.

President, Bhutto Send Messages to Iran

BK0104023389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto have congratulated Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on Iranian Republic Day, which is being observed today.

In their separate messages, the president and the prime minister said that the eternal ties of friendship between Pakistan and Iran are based on the common interests and traditions of the two countries and the Islamic values shared by them, adding that these ties have fully stood all tests of time. They expressed confidence that the relations of close friendship and mutual cooperation between the two countries will further strengthen in the years to come.

Program To Implement Treaty With USSR Signed

BK0104053289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] A program has been signed in Karachi on implementing the agreement on cooperation between the chambers of commerce and industries of the Soviet Union and Pakistan. The program was signed by the Soviet Chamber's Deputy Chairman (I.P. Kanev) and President of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries of Pakistan Tariq Sayeed on behalf of their respective countries. The cooperation agreement was signed between the two countries in 1987.

Speaking on the occasion, they expressed the hope that a trade council between the two countries will be set up soon which will help promote their existing trade and economic relations.

Spokesman on Efforts for UN Posts on Border

BK3103163889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The UN secretary general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, is consulting with the representatives of Pakistan and the Kabul regime over a request for new observation posts to be established on the Pak-Afghan border. A UN spokesman has said the posts have been requested by Kabul regime and the Soviet Union to deter what they assert as Pakistani military support for the Afghan mujahidin, especially on the Jalalabad front. Pakistan has firmly denied this allegation. The UN spokesman said it was up to the secretary general to decide on the establishment of the posts without a report to the Security Council. This way, he added, the UN chief would need the cooperation of the parties.

Over the last 2 days, the secretary general has conferred with Pakistan Ambassador Mr S. Shah Nawaz, Kabul's delegate (Sadat Roshane Rawan), the Soviet ambassador, and the American chief delegate, Thomas Pickering.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa on Amnesty to JVP, LTTE Members

BK0204101089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0845 GMT 2 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, April 2 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President R. Premadasa said yesterday about 100 to 200 "reception centers" will be set up throughout

the country to enable youth at present engaged in violence to surrender. These centers will be overlooked by representatives of all recognized political parties. "Come with arms or without arms and we will accept all unconditionally", the president appealed to these persons. He said he did not believe that the arms would be surrendered. These may be hidden.

President Premadasa was speaking at the sixth yovunhamuwa [youth festival] at Girandurukotte last night.

President Premadasa said that he believed in peace through consensus, peace through compromise and peace through consultation.

Mr. Premadasa assured the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Party] and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] that he was willing to accommodate their representatives in Parliament, so that they could air their grievances there. He said that although these two groups could not enter Parliament through democratic means he was willing to offer them a few of the 15 seats [in Parliament] on the national list which the UNP [United National Party] had won. He called upon the opposition political parties that have entitlement to the other 14 seats on the national list in Parliament to consider a similar offer to the LTTE and the JVP.

The JVP, the president said, was a recognised political party. But in 1983 certain political parties including the JVP were banned. The ban on all other parties was subsequently lifted but the JVP remained a proscribed party.

"Even at that time I said that this was an injustice. Even today I repeat it", the president said. The ban was later lifted but the JVP had doubts and fears and that was why they resorted to violence and other undemocratic practices. "Have confidence in me. If I say something I will do it. You can judge this from my past records. I released all political prisoners against whom there were no charges soon after I assumed office as president and I lifted the 5-year-old emergency which was in force, too," the president said.

The president said he would enter into a reciprocal agreement with India similar to the agreement India had with the USSR.

Referring to the Janasaviya [poverty alleviation] Program, the president said that there were 1.2 million persons without employment. Of this 800,000 were youth. "Within my tenure of office I will solve this problem, I have already given instructions to the National Youth Services Council on how this problem could be solved. Every child who leaves school or comes out of the university after graduation will be given an opportunity to earn an income within 6 months. I have shown them how to obtain the resources for this", he said.

President Premadasa said it was necessary to introduce the provincial council system nationwide as the people of the North and East claimed they had not got enough say in the administration of those two provinces. It was against the sovereignty of the country to establish provincial councils only for the North and East. The main aim of provincial councils was to decentralise the administration to the point that the simplest voter felt assured that the administration came to his doorstep. But still there was a lot to be done to further decentralise this administration.

"On Thursday [6 April] I will meet chief ministers and minister of provincial councils to discuss further decentralisation so that the common man can have the best out of the decentralisation process. The provincial council system has been introduced on a trial basis and there was a provision to make further improvements", he said.

He further said: "I never believed in military solutions to problems. By killing, you cannot achieve your goals. You will only aggravate the sufferings of the poor."

He pointed out that there was historical evidence that those who engaged in violence in a bid to find solutions to problems, finally only destroyed themselves.

The president also pointed out that former militants in the North and East who had joined the democratic process were now being well looked after and protected by the government, and others who give up violence and surrender should have no need to fear.

I am making this "peace appeal" on the sacred soil of Mahiyangana, the place where the Buddha first set foot on this beautiful land of ours and I am confident that my appeal will be heeded", he stressed.

Wijeratne Says Violence Extends IPKF Stay

BK0104055189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0449 GMT 1 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 1 April (LANKAPUVATH)—Foreign Minister and Minister of Defence Ranjan Wijeratne replying to opposition critics during the Defence Ministry votes in parliament yesterday said the government too liked to send the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) away as fast as possible.

He said he had appealed to the southern troublemakers to give up their struggle so that more local forces could be moved to the north. Already 5,000 Indian troops had left. It was hoped to move more Indian troops out by June 30 and December 31. That was the target. It would be a phased out withdrawal.

"We are for peaceful co-existence and a political solution," he said.

The IPKF came here for a particular purpose. terrorist groups preferred to hand over their arms to The Indians. They have their own pride. So we allowed th the to do so. The IPKF came here to leave in two or three months, but due to the escalation of violence betwthem the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] andween IPKF they could not leave as planned, Mr. Wijer the said. ratne

"I do not think President Jayewardene or the In prime minister anticipated such a situation," he adian "The IPKF have to quell the violence and there is bsaid. fighting going on. They are the fourth largest army inbitter world and they too have their pride." n the

11 'Suspected Subversives' Arrested; Arms Sei

BK0104123089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English1155 GMT 1 Apr 89

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["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 1 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—Sec forces recovered weapons and arrested eleven suspcurity subversives in a search operation conducted inected Lanka's Northeastern, Southern and Uva Provinces n Sri terday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH s yes- seven subversives were arrested by security forces that they were holding a meeting at Kallampattu, clo when Morawewa in Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province di se to of Trincomalee yesterday. One of them was identifi istrict a man from Kahatagasdigiliya, while the rest were ied as nearby villages. from

The sources said that another four suspected subver have been arrested by the security forces in a srsives operation at Ambalantota in southern Sri Lanka. earch

The report from Puwakgoda in Uva Province distr Monaragala states that during a search operation, rict of rity forces recovered four shotguns, two 12 bore secu- tridges and one cassette. Security forces recovered e car- tha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] literature, ink and Jana- items from the house of a JVP member. The force other recovered a shotgun, a locally made bomb, a set of s also uniforms and other items from a subversive hide army Ratmale in Sri Lanka's Southern Province distr out at Matara yesterday. Meanwhile, two soldiers, W rict of W.J.A. Wijetunge of 2 (V) Sinha Regiment and W.J.C.A. Wijetunge of 01 Field Engineers who were home on leave were shot dead by a gang of about 15 armed men at Degalgoruwa, Wattegama, in Sri Lanka's Central Province district of Kandy. Shotguns had been used in the killings. The Deshapremi Janatha Viyaparaya (DJV), the military wing of JVP subversives, is suspected to be responsible for the murders, official sources said.

722 Arrested Since 1 January

BK0204100089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0926 GMT 2 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 April (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's security forces arrested over 700 hardcore subversives and seized over 250 firearms in the first three months of this year. A Defence Ministry spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that the security forces had arrested 722 hardcore subversives from January 1 to March 30, 1989 and seized 9 automatic weapons, 244 shotguns, 24 locally made revolvers (galkatas) and a large quantity of ammunition. The Defence Ministry spokesman giving details said 218 confirmed subversives were arrested in the Kandy District, 122 in Matale, 85 in Kalutara, 69 in Puttalam, 41 in Colombo, 19 in Gampaha, 11 each in Anuradhapura and Badulla Districts, 4 in Ampara, 22 in Kegalle, 51 in Kurunegala, 36 in Matara, 9 in Trincomalee, 9 in Nuwara Eliya, 7 in Moneragala, 7 in Hambantota and 1 in the Galle District.

255 Refugee Families Return From South India

BK0204100489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0927 GMT 2 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 April (LANKAPUVATH)—Two hundred and fifty five refugee families returned to Sri Lanka from the Mandapam refugee camp in Ramanathapuram, south India last week. A spokesman for Ministry of Rehabilitation told LANKAPUVATH that the 255 families comprising 520 men, women and children returned on board two Indian ships on March 28 and 31. They landed at the Talaimannar pier.

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